

China lifts Beijing martial law

BEIJING (AP) — China said it would lift martial law in Beijing Thursday, but the capital's streets and the city's air were still under strict control. The move was seen as a sign of a thaw in the political situation, but it was not clear if the military would be withdrawn from the city. The move was seen as a sign of a thaw in the political situation, but it was not clear if the military would be withdrawn from the city.

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PLO official says Baker plan flopped King holds talks with Kaddoumi

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday received the head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) foreign affairs, Farouq Kaddoumi, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Petra did not give details except that Kaddoumi was accompanied by several PLO officials. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasbi attended the meeting, it added.

It was believed that Kaddoumi briefed the King on the latest developments in the Palestinian scene and efforts to advance the peace process.

Earlier, in an arrival statement, Kaddoumi said that an initiative for Palestinian-Israeli dialogue by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker flopped.

"We consider the Baker plan a failure since it does not respond to our demands," said Kaddoumi.

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Kaddoumi said Baker "did not come up with anything new and his plan is based on procedural issues."

The five-point Baker proposal calls for a meeting of U.S., Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers to plan talks between Palestinians and Israelis, which in turn would lead to the election of Palestinian representatives in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israeli officials are demanding U.S. guarantees that the PLO will have nothing to do with any negotiations.

"The PLO has to choose and announce its delegation to the meeting (with Israel) and it is not the right of anybody to object to that," Kaddoumi said.

Kaddoumi also said Palestinian-Israeli talks should be "open and not only aimed at holding elections" in the occupied territories.

He said the talks should be launched under international supervision and "the meeting itself should be a preliminary step towards holding an international peace conference on the Middle East."

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His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday confers with Palestinian official Farouq Kaddoumi (Petra photo)

Moscow to upgrade ties with PLO, Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze told a visiting Israeli minister Wednesday the Kremlin planned to upgrade relations with Israel and at the same time announced the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) would have a full embassy in Moscow.

The Soviet move came amid signs U.S. diplomatic efforts to arrange a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue had stalled and was accompanied by a renewed call for an international peace conference.

Meanwhile, a Soviet Aeroflot TU-134 plane landed at Ben-Gurion international airport near Tel Aviv, the first Soviet plane to bring Jewish immigrants on a direct flight from Moscow.

Israel expects up to 50,000 Soviet Jews to arrive this year and attaches great importance to a recent agreement on direct flights with the Soviet Union that would help channel the exodus to Israel instead of the United States.

The Soviet plane took back 52 Soviet teenagers from Chernobyl area who had been exposed to radiation during the 1986 accident at the nuclear plant there. The children spent three weeks in Israel on a holiday and were checked by Israeli doctors.

Israeli Science Minister Ezer Weizman said on Israel Radio after a two-hour meeting in Moscow with Shevardnadze that the Soviet Union plans to upgrade relations with Israel.

At the same time, the Soviet news agency TASS announced the Soviets were upgrading the status of the PLO mission in Moscow to "an embassy of the government of Palestine."

"The Soviet side expressed its readiness to conduct talks on regularising the status of the consular groups of both countries," TASS said, referring to Israel and the State of Palestine.

The move stops short of renewing full diplomatic ties with Israel, which were severed by the Soviet Union over the 1967 war.

Weizman, speaking from Moscow, said on the radio that Shevardnadze told him the Israeli and Soviet diplomatic missions

would be upgraded to legations ranking just below embassy level.

Weizman, the second Israeli minister to visit Moscow after a 23-year rupture in ties, said Shevardnadze viewed Weizman's visit as "further proof of more openness" in relations.

However, according to the TASS report, Shevardnadze repeated the Soviet demand for an international peace conference which Israel opposes.

Shevardnadze said the PLO must be included in the conference and other stages of the peace process but noted the solution must be based on "a balance of interests of all its participants, Arabs and Israelis alike," TASS said.

The Soviets refused to allow Arye Levin, Israel's consular representative in Moscow, to attend the meeting because he lacked the proper diplomatic status, Weizman said.

"I told them this must change and then, in light of this... we spoke of the change in status," Weizman said.

Weizman also said Shevardnadze promised to intervene with Syria and Iran to help account for at least six Israeli soldiers missing in action or captured in Lebanon by Iranian-backed groups.

The Weizman-Shevardnadze meeting in Moscow upset the Israeli foreign ministry because Levin was not allowed to attend it, and the ministry had asked Weizman to cancel the talks, Israel Radio said.

Weizman, a member of the centre-left Labour Party, went ahead with the meeting despite the foreign ministry recommendation and a warning from Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of the right-wing Likud bloc not to engage in any political meetings while in Moscow.

Tehran accepts Soviet mediation

MOSCOW (AP) — Iran has given the go-ahead to resume stymied peace settlement talks with Iraq, and this time they will be mediated and hosted by the Soviet Union, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Wednesday.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati sent a message to Moscow saying Iran was willing to resume the talks, which stalled this April in Geneva, Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady I. Gerasimov said.

Iraq had already agreed to the Soviet proposal for trilateral talks, so "now it is possible to start the practical working-out of this question," Gerasimov told a Moscow briefing.

He said he had no details on when and where the talks would be held.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, during an official visit to Iran in August, had offered the Soviet Union's help in mediating the deadlocked talks.

At the time, Tehran Radio quoted Shevardnadze as saying the Soviet Union was willing to exploit good relations with both Gulf war foes in an effort to further the talks.

The Soviets have leverage with Baghdad as Iraq's main suppliers in the Gulf war, and Iraq and the Soviet Union are bound by a treaty of friendship and cooperation.

Tehran also has signed big gas deals with Moscow along with other trade agreements, reversing years of bad relations with the Soviet Union when it had been grouped with America as a "great satan."

No progress was reported at the last round of direct negotiations between Velayati and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, held in Geneva in April.

at, who arrived in Beirut Sunday, met separately Tuesday with leaders of Amal and Hizbollah.

Muslim sources told Reuters the Iranian envoy, in several hours of talks, failed to persuade Hizbollah to withdraw from five villages seized from Amal in street-to-street battles.

The sources said the fundamentalist Hizbollah asked for guarantees that a peace pact signed last year with the more secular Amal would be implemented. Amal has said Hizbollah must quit the villages before any talks can start.

The peace pact stipulated that Amal would be responsible for security in South Lebanon, but that Hizbollah could conduct political, religious and cultural activities there.

The agreement also allowed Hizbollah to launch guerrilla attacks against Israel from the south and called for the reopening of Amal offices in Beirut's southern suburbs, a Hizbollah stronghold. The offices remain closed.

Hizbollah ousted Amal fighters from the western Bekaa Valley last month. More than 900 people have been killed in the almost two-year-old feud.

ANKARA, Sofia shift
focus to bilateral ties

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Turkey and Bulgaria ended their second round of Kuwait-sponsored talks on the rights of the ethnic Muslim Turks by shifting emphasis to the normalisation of relations, sources close to the meeting said Wednesday.

Meanwhile Bulgaria said it proposed a non-aggression pact with Turkey at the day-long meetings in Kuwait Tuesday, the second since Oct. 30.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz, who led his country's delegation to the discussions, left Kuwait while his Bulgarian counterpart Boiko Dimitrov was due to leave later in the day.

"Turkey is inclined to consider the problem of the Turkish Muslim minority in Bulgaria resolved following the adoption of the new leadership in Sofia of a decision restoring rights to the ethnic Turks," said the sources, who spoke on condition they not be named.

"Turkey considers any more steps in this respect a purely international responsibility of the Bulgarian government," they said.

The sources said that the Turkish foreign minister had received

Iraq reviews Turkey's decision

BAGHDAD (AP) — The entire Iraqi leadership met Wednesday to discuss Turkey's decision to cut the flow of water in the Euphrates River for a month, state-run radio reported. Baghdad Radio said President Saddam Hussein chaired a meeting of the Revolutionary Command Council and the regional command of the Baath Party to discuss "technical and political aspects of Turkey's decision to cut the Euphrates water." The radio did not give further details, but said all necessary measures will be taken to overcome problems. Ankara decided to block the water starting from Jan. 13 to fill its newly built Ataturk Dam on the Euphrates in southeast Turkey. Turkish officials announced the cut months ago and increased the flow of the river ahead of time, saying both Iraq and Syria should be able to cope with the extreme shortfall in the water of the river by storing extra water ahead of time. But Iraq had announced that the cut, not expected to dry up the river because of downstream tributaries, will drastically affect agriculture in central and south Iraq.

Schools opened in West Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — More than 320,000 Palestinian students returned to classes in the occupied West Bank Wednesday, two months after schools were closed by the Israeli occupation authorities.

The United Nations-run schools opened for the new school year, which is expected to run until July 8.

Military authorities ordered an early end to the West Bank school year last Nov. 13, two days before Palestinians marked the first anniversary of the declaration of a Palestinian state.

In the occupied Gaza Strip, the army delayed the reopening of schools from Thursday to Monday without giving a reason. They have remained open through most of the revolt.

Palestinian nationalists in the Gaza Strip had killed two fellow Arabs on suspicion of helping Israeli forces, Palestinian and Israeli sources said.

The Israeli military authorities kept West Bank schools closed for seven months last year, saying schools were a source of protests in the 25-month-old Palestinian revolt.

Palestinians said the closure had prevented students from finishing their curriculum. School officials had hoped for only a two-week break before resuming classes in 1990, instead of the two-month gap forced on them. Officials at the U.N. Relief and

Works Agency (UNRWA), which helps Palestinian refugees, said students would complete last year's curriculum before beginning the new school year.

In the Gaza Strip, the body of Aiman Kammout, 25, from Maghazi refugee camp was found in an abandoned well in nearby Nusseirat camp Wednesday. Residents said the body, which bore stab and axe wounds, was taken to an Israeli hospital for an autopsy.

The army said they were checking the report.

A day earlier, 36-year-old Ghifra Abu Libdeh, from the Gaza Strip town of Rafah, was hospitalized after being stabbed by unidentified Palestinians. She died later Monday, Palestinian and military sources said.

Israeli soldiers in the Gaza Strip demolished a house in Beit Hanoun village on charges an occupant helped in the kidnapping and killing of an Israeli soldier.

The army also notified owners of four West Bank houses sealed up last Sunday that they would be demolished.

Soldiers shot and wounded two children during clashes in Jafalia and Nusseirat refugee camps in the Gaza Strip Wednesday. A 10-year-old girl from Nusseirat, shot in the chest, was reported in serious condition.

SHI'ITE MILITIAS BATTLE
with renewed fury

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — Rival Shi'ite Muslim militias clashed with renewed fury in South Lebanon Wednesday, spurning mediation efforts by Iran.

The pro-Syrian Amal and Iranian-backed Hizbollah (Party of God) militias rained artillery shells and rockets on each other's positions for the 19th successive day, sending terrified villagers scurrying for cover.

Both groups, fighting for leadership of Lebanon's 1.5 million Shi'ites, denied a statement by Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Ali Besharati Tuesday that a ceasefire had been agreed.

Security sources said the militias shelled each other's positions in the villages of 'Ain Qana, 'Ain Bouswar, Jarjouh and Arabsalim in the Iqlim Al Tufah area, 40 kilometres south of Beirut.

There were no reports of casualties from the six-hour non-stop barrage, the fiercest in five days. At least 76 people have been killed and 280 wounded since fighting erupted on Dec. 23.

Scores of villagers fled their homes. Many who fled earlier had just returned, thinking the fighting had eased.

Political sources said Besharati, who arrived in Beirut Sunday, met separately Tuesday with leaders of Amal and Hizbollah.

Muslim sources told Reuters the Iranian envoy, in several hours of talks, failed to persuade Hizbollah to withdraw from five villages seized from Amal in street-to-street battles.

The sources said the fundamentalist Hizbollah asked for guarantees that a peace pact signed last year with the more secular Amal would be implemented. Amal has said Hizbollah must quit the villages before any talks can start.

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Hizbollah ousted Amal fighters from the western Bekaa Valley last month. More than 900 people have been killed in the almost two-year-old feud.

Aoun deposits said to exceed \$100 million

BEIRUT (Agencies) — The leftist newspaper Al Safir Wednesday quoted unnamed financial sources as saying rebel General Michel Aoun's deposits in European and American banks are estimated at more than \$100 million.

Aoun was entangled in a smothering financial scandal last week over reports he had \$15 million stashed in French banks. The general admitted having this amount but claimed the money was donations made over the last year to help his 20,000 troops.

Al Safir said in its front-page story that Aoun's funds came from Iraq, which supported the general's six-month war against the Syrian army in Lebanon that left 929 people killed before an Arab League-brokered ceasefire took hold last September.

Aoun's press office did not comment on the report.

The general has been advised to use the dollar as legal currency replacing the Lebanese pound to counter sanctions applied against his administration by the government of President Elias Hrawi, the paper reported.

It said Aoun has appropriated all military funds assigned to Lebanese embassies in Paris, London, Washington and Brussels, which were estimated at tens of millions of dollars.

The move apparently followed the sending of a circular to these embassies by Salim Al Hoss, prime minister in Hrawi's cabinet, to freeze all purchases of arms and military spare parts.

Al Safir said that a \$500,000 monthly subsidy from a "certain Arab state" to provide food and



Michel Aoun

medication for the Lebanese army has been transferred to Aoun's personal account.

The armed forces of Aoun are recruiting women for combat roles, Reuters reported. Among units accepting women will be the military police and presidential guard. Women can also join the small air force and navy.

Mahdi moved to house arrest

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — Sudan's military government released former Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi from prison Wednesday but kept him under house arrest, the junta's top security official said.

Colonel Bakri Hassan Salih, leader of the government's security committee, said another politician, Mahdi's former deputy and Foreign Minister Sidahmad Al Hussein, also was allowed to leave jail but remained restricted to quarters.

The official Sudan News Agency (SUNA), which distributed Salih's comments, said Mahdi's release was part of the celebration of Sudan's 34th independence anniversary Jan. 1.

Only one of the party leaders and other senior politicians imprisoned during a 15-man junta ousted Mahdi in a bloodless coup on June 30 remains in jail, Ibrahim Nugud of the

disbanded Communist Party, with him are an unknown number of junior politicians, ex-government officials and members of dissolved professional organisations and trade unions.

In a dispatch from Khartoum, Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported in Cairo that Sudanese Information Minister Ali Shummo said Mahdi was released because no proof of corruption had been found.

"The release of Mahdi comes as part of the government's release of any detainees against whom investigations show no proof of mistakes that led to corruption under the previous regime," Shummo told the Egyptian agency.

The spiritual leader of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), Mohammad Osman Al Mirghani, released from jail and put under house arrest last month after nearly six months

in detention, left for Britain Wednesday for medical treatment, SUNA added.

The DUP and Mahdi's Umma Party, outlawed by the junta with all other political parties, were partners in four of the five coalition governments formed by Mahdi during his three-year rule.

Hassan Al Tourabi, leader of the militant National Islamic Front (NIF) party, was switched from jail to house arrest last month.

On seizing power Bashir imposed a nationwide state of emergency, suspended the constitution and dissolved parliament and trade unions.

He was repeatedly vowed never to allow a multi-party system back in Sudan, Africa's largest country and one of its poorest.

His coup was Sudan's fourth military takeover since independence in 1956 from Anglo-Egyptian rule.

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Israel, UNRWA clash over Palestinian aid

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel and the United Nations clashed Tuesday over the role of a U.N. refugee agency in aiding Palestinians during the uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Giorgio Giacomelli, commissioner-general of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), said Israeli leaders expressed concern in talks that his organization was exceeding its mandate by aiding non-refugees and running an undercover observer force.

"What I cannot share is the manifest intention of putting a squeeze on us, putting us under tutelage and control as if we were part of the (Israeli) civil administration," he told Reuters.

Israeli sources said Shmuel Goren, the defence ministry's top administrator for the occupied territories, denied trying to restrict UNRWA but insisted the agency must not exceed its mandate to provide humanitarian services for refugees.

Giacomelli said the U.S. secretary-general and the General Assembly asked UNRWA to extend temporary exceptional assistance to all needy Palestinians during the emergency created by the 26-month-old uprising.

Similar measures had been taken during the Lebanese civil war. The aid was mainly food rations and medical treatment for casualties of clashes with the Israeli army.

Giacomelli said his talks with Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and Goren had helped clear up "an accumulation of misunderstandings, suspicion and concern" over UNRWA's role.

Israeli officials have accused the agency of channelling aid to uprising activists on behalf of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The UNRWA chief said he would accept money "even from the devil," but only to fund the agency's publicly approved humanitarian programme.

He said while Israel and the U.N. agency could not see eye-to-eye on all matters, they shared an interest in limiting the bloodshed, economic and human damage of the uprising.

Some 800, of the 1.75 million Palestinians in the occupied territories are refugees.

Giacomelli said UNRWA had to slash its operating budget of \$240 million by six per cent in real terms this year, mainly because of a cut in the contribution of the United States, the biggest donor.

The agency did not yet have any money to cover emergency relief services in Lebanon and the occupied territories for the second half of 1990, he said.

Citing the need to resettle other refugees, Washington cut its UNRWA contribution from \$67 million two years ago to \$61 million last year and \$50 million in 1990.

Health standards

U.S. Secretary of Health Louis Sullivan said Tuesday that standards of medical care were markedly lower in the occupied territories than in Israel.

Sullivan, on a visit to meet Israeli health officials, said the lower quality of Palestinian health care pre-dated the Israeli occupation of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank but new problems had arisen during the Palestinian revolt.

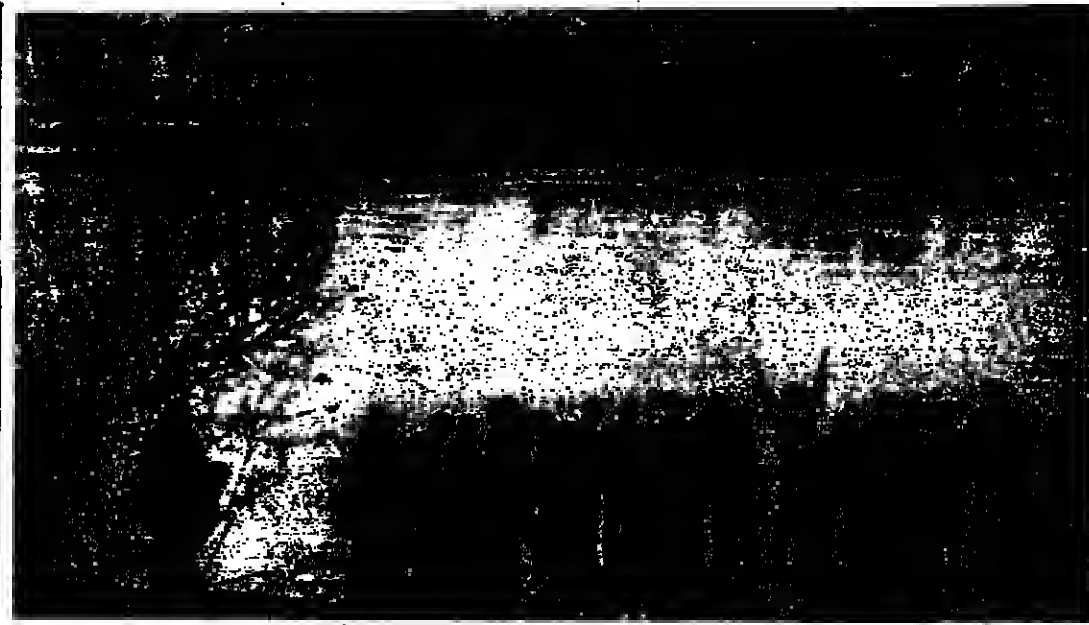
"There is common recognition between the Israeli officials and the Palestinian officials that the health status of the Palestinians is not as good as that of the Israeli citizens," Sullivan told reporters.

Sullivan said Palestinian health officials told him during talks that their infant mortality rate was higher than the Israeli rate and only a quarter of Palestinians had medical insurance, compared with 96 per cent of Israelis.

"As a result of this there are problems with them being able to afford health care," Sullivan said before boarding a flight to Cairo for talks with Egyptian officials.

The Palestinian uprising had complicated medical care, with budget cuts forced by a lack of tax revenue and the movement of patients obstructed by curfews, Sullivan said.

But he praised the standards of Israeli medicine, saying Israel had lower infant mortality than the United States.



CROSSING: Azerbaijani Shi'ite Muslims at the Araks River. On the Soviet side, riots have erupted among Azerbaijanis seeking access to Iranian relatives. At least a dozen Azerbaijanis were killed before returning.

Paris confirms diplomatic return to Afghan capital

PARIS (AP) — France will reopen its embassy in Afghanistan, becoming the first Western power to do so since a U.S.-led coalition just before the Soviet army withdrew last year, a spokesman said Wednesday.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the embassy would be headed by a chargé d'affaires. He said the diplomat had not yet been named and a date for the reopening was not set.

The announcement was first made Tuesday in Islamabad by Edwige Avice, France's deputy foreign minister, who said the decision had "no political significance."

Speaking to reporters during an official visit, Mrs. Avice said the action should not be considered support for the existing Kabul government, and noted that Pakistan — a strong supporter of the anti-government rebels — has kept its Kabul embassy open.

The United States, Britain and other countries withdrew their diplomatic personnel from Kabul before the February 1989 withdrawal of Soviet forces, citing concern for safety if the capital was overrun by anti-government guerrillas.

In the past year, the Afghan government has shown greater staying power than expected by some Western diplomats. Although Kabul has come under rocket attacks, it has not proved especially dangerous for the diplomatic personnel who remained.

But Western countries were reluctant to return to Kabul in a move that could be seen as a concession that the U.S.-backed rebels were not close to victory.

The New York Times newspaper reported Wednesday that the French decision to reopen its

embassy was made despite U.S. objections.

Reports that France was planning to return diplomats to Kabul came to light months ago, and Secretary of State James Baker raised the matter with Foreign Minister Roland Dumas in St. Martin on Dec. 16, the Times said.

"We explained that we don't recognise this government, that we consider it an illegitimate government and we shouldn't be sending in diplomats because that gives the impression of business as usual," the newspaper quoted an official as saying.

Some Western diplomats who left Kabul a year ago privately accused Americans of stampeding them into a hasty departure, although they acknowledged that their governments had planned to close embassies sooner or later.

The Kabul government has long accused Washington of deliberate propaganda to portray the Najibullah government as unstable.

Afghan rebels based in Pakistan who are fighting to topple the government in Kabul get most of their funds and weapons from the United States.

"They (the rebels) are not happy about it because it is the wrong signal to send," said a Western diplomat. "For whatever legitimate reasons they (the French) have it is certain to be used by the Soviet Union and the Afghan regime for their own purposes."

A European ambassador disagreed, saying he believed the French move would send precisely the right signal because it would tell the divided rebel leadership it had become flexible in seeking a political solution to the civil war.

The Afghan government-in-exile consistently refuses to talk even indirectly to Najibullah and

rejects any idea of sharing power with his People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

Since early last year, the only NATO country represented in Kabul has been Turkey and diplomats say they have badly missed first-hand information from the Afghan capital.

Of the three other West European nations to pull out last year, the least likely to follow France's lead is Britain because of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's staunch support of the Afghan rebel cause.

West Germany is also unlikely to break ranks but Italy could be next to decide to reopen, diplomatic sources said.

Stampede over visas

For almost two weeks, Afghan war refugees living in camps along Pakistan's rugged frontier heard rumours that hundreds of planes were parked on the tarmac of Islamabad's international airport, waiting to take 60,000 refugees to the United States.

Finning their hopes on what they had heard, hundreds boarded Pakistan's fleet of rickety old buses and arrived at the gates of the International Catholic Migration Commission. The organisation, under contract to the U.S. State Department, processes refugee applications.

"They thought the airlines were just waiting to take them away," said Eldon Wager, the commission's director in Islamabad.

The numbers peaked Sunday, when there were nearly 300 people waiting outside the commission office, he said.

Some had even sold their few personal possessions to finance the 170-kilometre trip from the border city of Peshawar to Islamabad, hoping it was the first step on a journey to the United States.

Israel appeals for funds to settle Soviet Jews

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli leaders Tuesday urged American Jews to boost donations to help meet an expected \$300 million deficit in the programme to absorb a wave of Soviet immigrants.

Finance Minister Shimon Peres told a group of 100 fundraising rabbis from the United States and Canada that Israel was willing to cut its standard of living to absorb the immigrants, but expects help from Jewish communities overseas.

"Even if we have to cut our standard of living we will absorb the immigrants," Peres said. "This is our most important job, to save Jews and give the state greater capabilities."

"Together we shall bring them over here and make this country stronger," he said to the Israel Bonds Rabbis Conference. The rabbis were responsible for selling almost \$130 million in Israel bonds last year.

Meir Shitreet, treasurer of the quasi-governmental Jewish Agency, said the agency expects 100,000 Soviet immigrants, 30,000 more than are provided for in the 1990 budget.

Increased immigration will

leave the Jewish Agency with a deficit of \$300 million, he said. Jewish Agency Chairman Simha Dinitz said agency officials plan to meet with leaders from the United Jewish Appeal and the United Israel Appeal next week in New York to ask them to increase their fund raising target of \$500 million over five years.

"I am convinced that American Jewry, as it did in the past, as well as world Jewry, will partly bear the expenses of this enormous project of returning the Jewish people to their country," Dinitz said. "This is our demand from them and I believe they will respond."

Dinitz said Israel needs \$3 billion over three years to provide jobs and housing for the Soviet immigrants. He said in that period Israel will provide \$2 billion, the world Jewish community will raise \$500 million and \$500 million will be provided in loans backed by the U.S. government.

Tuesday night, 50 rabbis from the Israel bonds delegation met almost 300 arriving Soviet immigrants. A spokesman for the Jewish Agency said that this month Soviet Jews have been arriving at the rate of 500 per day.

Census in Khartoum

KHARTOUM (AP) — Most Khartoum residents obeyed orders of Sudan's military rulers Tuesday and stayed at home for a census that seemed aimed at weeding out more than 1.5 million refugees and displaced southern Sudanese sheltering in the capital area.

Streets were described except for occasional police checkpoints, giving scant evidence of at least five million people of Khartoum and its suburbs and Omdhman, its twin city across the Nile River.

By government decree, public and private employees had the day off. Public transportation was stopped, and police patrols enforced a curfew from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (0600-1500 GMT).

Sudan's state-owned television, which normally transmits from the early evening, went on air at 10 a.m. (0800 GMT) to entertain the homebound Khartoumites with light entertainment programmes, soccer and American professional wrestling.

Officials said Tuesday's capital-area head count marked a step toward another national tabulation but have not said specifically why it was ordered.

It appeared likely, however, that Omar Hassan Al Bashir's government wanted to determine

the number of refugees and displaced people, probably to facilitate their transfer later to other regions.

Questions asked nationally, birthplace and when and why non-Khartoum natives moved to the capital.

In a statement repeatedly read on television and radio Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, Khartoum's military commissioner, Mohammad Osman Mohammad Saeed, ordered: "All people living in the capital must remain indoors. The city will be closed to incoming and outgoing vehicle and train traffic... to facilitate the counting."

The general's statement said people who could not miss work and people going to the airport would have to have permits obtained Monday from the central military area headquarters in Khartoum.

Sudan's last national census was in 1983, under the military government headed by Jaafar Numeiri, which was overthrown two years later. Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi's civilian government estimated before it was ousted by the military last June 30 that the capital had five million to seven million residents, not counting refugees and displaced Sudanese.

31 hanged in Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — Thirty-one people, including three women, were hanged Wednesday in Iran after they were convicted on drug-smuggling charges, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said.

The agency, monitored in Cyprus, said 10 of those hanged were members of one international ring smuggling various drugs throughout the Middle East including opium.

They were among 23 people executed at dawn at a prison in Karaj west of Tehran who were "involved in the spread of corruption" by drug smuggling, it said. Three were women and four were Afghans.

Eight other "professional drug dealers" were hanged in the cities of Shiraz, Sahzevar and Saveh, the agency reported in a later dispatch. Those executions apparently were performed in public.

Under Iran's theocratic laws, anyone convicted of "spreading

corruption on earth" can face the death penalty for offences that include drug smuggling, sex offences and financial corruption.

A draconian, one-year-old anti-narcotics law stipulates the death penalty for anyone found with even small amounts of heroin or opium, the base foreign. Wednesday's execution toll, albeit high, is not a record for Iran. Authorities have executed as many as 80 people in a single day, often in public.

Human rights organisations have condemned the large number of executions in Iran's crackdown since it was launched a year ago. Opponents of the regime say many of those executed are not drug smugglers, but political prisoners.

The Financial Times of London reported Tuesday that for the first time in living memory, three people were beheaded, rather than hanged, in the western city of Hamadan for drunkenness and sexual offences.

Ben Ali's party gives ground on electoral system, media

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia's ruling party, which holds all the seats in parliament, yielded to opposition pressure Tuesday and accepted the principles of reforming the electoral system and giving the opposition a voice in the official media.

Opposition leaders said they were pleased with the outcome of a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Hamed Karoui and attended by Abdul Rahim Zouari, secretary general of the ruling Democratic Constitutional Union (RCD).

President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali called the meeting of the so-called National Pact Council last week to deal with opposition complaints that the democratic experiment he launched two years ago had come to a dead end.

Zouari told Reuters after more than three hours of talks in Karoui's office: "The council has come to the conclusion that one of the priorities is amending the electoral code and has decided to put the suggestion to president Ben Ali."

"We are proposing that political pluralism be introduced in the



Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali media, especially on the radio and television."

The electoral code, which favours large parties, and the ruling party's virtual monopoly of the state broadcasting service have been the main targets of opposition complaints.

Three important political groups, the Movement of Democratic Socialists, the Tunisian Communist Party and the country's influential Islamic move-

ment, boycotted the meeting Tuesday.

But two opposition leaders who did attend came out saying they felt further meetings would be worthwhile.

"Before the meeting I must admit I was a little anxious about the outcome but now I am very much encouraged," said Najib Chebbi of the leftist Progressive Socialist Rally.

"We received the impression that there will be a favourable response (from Ben Ali) to our demands," added Mohammad Belhaj Amor of the Popular Unity Party.

The council will also ask Ben Ali to include opposition representatives on a board to review the education system.

But the opposition leaders failed to win concessions on the press code and the law on parties, which they say give the government too much control over political life.

Under the electoral system, the party which wins the most votes in each of the country's 25 constituencies wins all the seats in that constituency, which may number up to nine.

Jibril: Lockerbie accusation is attempt to blackmail Syria

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Hardline Palestinian guerrilla leader Ahmad Jibril said Tuesday Western accusations that he engineered the bombing of a Pan Am jumbo jet over Scotland was a deliberate attempt to blackmail Syria.

"We believe that this campaign is aimed at blackmailing Syria and President Hafez Al Assad because the United States and (President George) Bush believe the time is ripe to settle scores with countries and movements hostile to imperialism," Jibril told a hastily-arranged press conference.

Jibril, a former Syrian army

captain who heads the popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), has been blamed for the midair explosion of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland Dec. 21, 1988.

All 259 people on board and 11 people on the ground were killed. Jibril claimed that the United States and France also hold Syria responsible for the twin suicide truck bombings of the American marine base and the French paratroop headquarters in Beirut that killed 241 U.S. servicemen and 58 Frenchmen in 1983.

"But they do not want to face Syria outright so they did it in-

directly by trying to implicate us in the (Lockerbie) bombing," Jibril told the packed news conference at Mar Elias Palestinian refugee camp in Beirut.

"We say it loud and clear that President Hafez Al Assad is not a Noriega and Syria is not a Banana republic," the unshaven, tired-looking Jibril said in reference to the recent U.S. invasion of Panama and the subsequent arrest of its former dictator Manuel Noriega.

Asked whether he condemns the Lockerbie bombing, Jibril said, "We condemn all acts that lead to the killing of civilians and innocents."

"But by the same token I want to ask, hasn't bush in his recent attack on panama willfully killed children, women and infants?" Asked to comment on reports that his group and Iran plotted the Lockerbie attack together, Jibril said, "These are just fabrications that are not based on any kind of truth."

Suspect appeals

A Palestinian suspected of involvement in the Pan Am barbing appealed Tuesday against a life sentence in Sweden for other bombings, his lawyer said.

Mohammad Abu Talb, 35, was found guilty by a Swedish district court last Dec. 21 of aiding and abetting murder and other offences arising from bomb attacks in Copenhagen and Amsterdam in 1985.

His lawyer, Sven-Erik Sjogren, said he would appeal to a Stockholm regional court, which under Swedish legal procedure must grant him a second court hearing.

The appeal document repeated Abu Talb's denial of any involvement in the bombings and called for an acquittal.

The verdict on Abu Talb, tried with three other Palestinians who also received life sentences, was delivered a year after the Locker-

bie explosion.

Talb has been formally identified as a suspect in the police investigation into the Lockerbie bombing but has denied any involvement.

Sjogren said Scottish police attended an interrogation session about Lockerbie with Abu Talb last month. The session was stopped after only 20 minutes because Abu Talb and his lawyer were unhappy about the number of interrogators.

"We haven't heard from the Scottish police since before Christmas. We have the feeling that their interest is fading," Sjogren told Reuters.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:00 Kanan
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
17:10 Book of Adventure
18:00 News in Arabic
18:20 Religious programme
19:00 Health programme
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Local series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Local programme
22:20 Arabic film
23:00 News in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Tel Pura Tel File
18:30 La Chance aux chansons
19:00 News in French
19:15 Sitcom on Tourne
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 A Different World
21:10 NBA Basketball
22:00 News in English
22:30 A Lion in the Street

PRAYER TIMES

05:30 Fajr
06:30 (Sunrise) Duha
11:40 Dhuhr
14:30 'Asr
16:54 Maghrib
18:15 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish
Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624390.
Church of the Assumption Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Ternavanta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Assumption Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 628543.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Assiout International Church Tel. 827981, 683326.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 64932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be cold and partly cloudy with easterly moderate wind. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 8, Agaba 16. Humidity readings: Amman 55 per cent, Agaba 34 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Abdul Qader Al Lala 696048
Dr. Abdul Rahim Ahmad 744685
Dr. Issam Abu Rieg 681967
Dr. Mohammad Imran 639999
First pharmacy 661912
Al Salama pharmacy 670555
Nasrallah pharmacy 626762
Al Salama pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shawabeh pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Amin Abu Eids (-)
Al Shamsa pharmacy (963238)

ZARQA:
Dr. Mousa Odeh (-)
Khalaf pharmacy 963417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630441
Rescue 199
Rescue Police 152, 661111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775212
Highway Police 849402
Traffic Police 863390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 662800
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage

COMPLAINTS

Amman Municipality 891467
Complaints 767111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repair 843045
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 681010
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

Amman:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644216/6
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644216/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 62362
Mafkas, J. Amman 626140
Palestine, Shamsi 664171/4
Repatriation 669131
University Hospital 843045
Al-Musharraf Hospital 667227/57
The Islamic, Abdull 664164/6
Al-Ahli, Abdull 771813
Al-Bashir, J. Amman 775112/26
Army, Marja 891613/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)963323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)91071
Jabal Shams Hospital (09)96732

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)27275
Jin Al Nafsa Hospital (02)271100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (08)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:45 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
09:00 Damascus (RJ)
09:15 Agaba (RJ)
09:30 New Delhi (RJ)
09:30 Frankfurt (RJ)
09:55 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)
10:00 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
16:15 London (RJ)
16:20 Baghdad (RJ)
17:00 Laraca (RJ)
17:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:10 Cambas, Tunis (RJ)<



Prime Minister Moudar Badran, accompanied by senior officials, Wednesday visits the gas fields at Al Rishah (Petra photos)



Badran visits Rishah fields

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Moudar Badran Wednesday paid an inspection tour of natural gas fields at Al Rishah district close to the border with Iraq and said later that natural gas prospecting programmes were moving in the right direction.

The visit came two days after Badran heard a briefing on gas and oil prospecting operations at Al Rishah presented by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al Taber, who announced that surveys had revealed the presence of vast gas reserves in the area.

Badran visited the site of a rig called Jerash and was briefed on the progress of drilling.

He was told that the Natural Resources Authority (NRA), which undertakes the drilling operations employing national teams, had purchased the rig for \$4.5 million.

NRA teams have to date drilled three gas wells, which altogether produce 40 million cubic feet of gas on a daily basis, Badran was told.

At present, the rig is being used to drill a fourth well at a depth of 2,700 metres and it is hoped that pumping of gas will begin by next week.

Badran, accompanied by the minister of energy, visited a station which processes the passage of gas to the turbines at a power station that generates electricity. The power station provides nearly 15 per cent of the total national electricity output, and is driven by gas produced at Al Rishah.

Power generation operations will be boosted once two additional gas turbine units have been installed at the power station at Rishah.

Once the two gas turbine units are transferred from their present location at a JEA facility near Amman to Al Rishah and start producing electricity, Jordan is expected to save around \$10 million worth of fuel for energy generation every year, according to the minister.

In addition, the ministry has also plans to use Al Rishah gas in local industries and petrochemical plants, the minister said last week.

Speaking after the visit, the prime minister voiced deep appreciation to the workers at the oil gas fields and the power station. Once well number 18 has become fully operational, he said the country can go ahead with setting up a petrochemical plant powered by the natural gas obtained at the Rishah district.

Several officials accompanied the prime minister on the visit.



His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday receives Syrian around-the-world traveller Ahmad Habbibi (Petra photo)

King meets Syrian traveller

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein met at the Royal Court Wednesday with a Syrian around the world traveller, who presented the King with a brass shield.

The traveller, Ahmad Mohammad Habbibi, told King Hussein about his trip which he said was being made under the slogan of: "Everything is dedicated to childhood."

Habbibi started his trip from the Syrian city of Quneitra and will end it at the Japanese city of Hiroshima. Quneitra was occupied and destroyed by Israel in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war while Hiroshima was devastated in 1945 by an American atomic bomb.

King carried an inscription expressing appreciation of his efforts to serve Arab interests and the cause of peace.

Later Wednesday, Minister of Youth Ibrahim Ghaleb met Habbibi and praised his mission as an "undertaking which is intended to demonstrate Arab youths' role in enhancing friendship and peace in the world."

The shield presented to the

ACC ministers review housing and construction

AMMAN (J.T.) — Ministers in charge of housing and reconstruction in the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) opened a two-day meeting in Amman Wednesday to discuss cooperation among the ACC countries in housing, construction and related affairs.

Housing Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh said the two-day session represents one more step towards achieving integration among Egypt, Iraq, North Yemen and Jordan.

He expressed appreciation to the four technical teams which prepared the work for the ministerial meeting.

Egyptian Minister of Reconstruction and Housing Hasaballah Al Kafrawi underlined the importance of housing for the ACC countries, and said that the ACC possesses vast potentials that remain to be fully and properly exploited.

Dr. Hilmi Nammar, ACC secretary-general, said the Amman-based ACC secretariat was willing to offer subcommittees on construction and housing the required machinery to implement projects in this sector and help provide better and more homes for citizens of the Arab World.

Addressing the opening session, Nammar said the ACC General Secretariat was currently preparing the ground for establishing a central data bank that can provide the specialised committees with information to promote their work.

Following the morning session, the ACC delegations visited the Abu Nuseir Housing Estate northwest of here and listened to a briefing on the project, which was implemented by two foreign companies.

Despite the current difficult economic conditions in the Arab World, proper attention should be directed towards the housing and reconstruction sector since it has a direct impact on the lives of Arab citizens, Nammar said.

At the outset of the session, Minister of Public Works and Housing Hassan said the Amman meeting serves as a solid ground on which the four ministers can build their future cooperation in the housing and reconstruction fields.

Badran meets delegates

The ACC ministers were later received by Prime Minister Moudar Badran. They reviewed with him cooperation among ACC states in housing and reconstruction and briefed him on the outcome of Wednesday's meeting.

The prime minister paid tribute to the ministers' efforts, which, he said, contribute most positively towards ACC integration.

North Yemeni Minister of Municipalities and Housing Ali Hamadani told the meeting that North Yemen, which has just arrived at a formula for unity with South Yemen, regards the meeting as one more step to pool the Arab countries' resources, and achieve the ACC's objectives.

The ministerial meeting will

Workshops to market Ma'in spa

MADABA (Petra) — The Ministry of Tourism is preparing for a series of workshops in March designed to market Ma'in spa complex with the Arab World and to attract more tourists groups in Jordan, Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Al Kabarti announced here Wednesday.

The spa at Ma'in is considered the largest thermal centre using mineral waters in the Middle East and the ministry plans to boost its operations and help attract more visitors to it and to the neighbouring archaeological and touristic sites, the minister said during a tour of tourist and archaeological areas in Madaba district, 35 kilometres south of Amman.

The Ministry of Tourism is currently conducting a comprehensive survey of tourist and archaeological sites in the Kingdom in order to include them in a special book which will be sold in the Arab World, Kabarti said. He said that such a project was bound to attract non-Jordanian

investors to Jordan's tourist areas.

The ministry has adopted the idea of linking the Ma'in spa complex with neighbouring Mikawer and Deir villages in Madaba and the Dead Sea to the west through a network of roads to offer visitors the chance to tour these regions, Kabarti added.



Abdul Karim Al Kabarti

He said that initial agreement was reached with the Ministry of Public Works to open agricultural roads as a first step linking all these regions in the course of boosting tourism and helping local farmers transport their produce to markets.

Kabarti said the Ministry of Tourism had reached an understanding with the local company operating the Ma'in spa complex to allocate part of its revenues as grants to the municipal council of Ma'in and the village councils of Mikawer and Deir to help them improve their services. The company has also tentatively agreed

to purchase 70 per cent of its food needs from the Madaba district and to give priority in employment to citizens from the Madaba area, Kabarti said.

The municipality of Ma'in and the local museum were visited by Kabarti, who was accompanied on the tour by ministry officials and Dr. Ghazi Bisbeh, director-general of the Department of Antiquities.

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Deputies stress public's responsibility, reciprocity

By Netween Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The fact that Jordan is witnessing new developments in its political, social and economic policies is no longer the newsy lead to any newspaper report. However, attempts to define this new era in a legitimate manner is a task now shouldered by professional associations, political parties and the public at large.

To guarantee honest application of articles of the Constitution after three decades of an "emergency" which blocked the proper development of the democratic process seems to be the wide umbrella under which the members of the Lower House of Parliament are now working.

What are the prerequisites for the success of this "democratic and free era" in light of the absence of any political indoctrination towards this end for over 32 years?

A former Arab nationalist, a Communist and an Islamist, all now members of the Lower House, endeavoured Tuesday to shed light on the "horizons of the new era in Jordan" in an open symposium held by the Jordan Engineers Association at the Professional Associations Complex.

Mohammad Faris Al Tarawneh (Karak), Issa Madanat (Karak) and Yacoub Qarrash (Amman) delivered short speeches in which they highlighted the first indications of the existence of the political will in Jordan to reinforce and introduce a new era which would allow higher political, social and economic participation by the public.

All three deputies agreed that the total freedom extended to citizens of all political leanings with no bars whatsoever to contest in the Nov. 8 elections was the first step towards a "positive and interesting way of life" for the Kingdom. They noted that the pointed abstention from applying provisions of the Election Law to prevent known political activists from seeking seats in the Lower House was followed by a series of measures reinstating political and social freedoms as well as the freedoms to work and travel without the interference of security departments.

The steps and measures adopted by the government were many and often preempted demands by the Lower House itself and although parliamentarians have been underlining the need for continued government moves

along the same line; the three deputies who addressed Tuesday's gathering called on the public to reciprocate the moves undertaken by the executive authority as well as Parliament and to raise their level of awareness of the political implications of the measures.

"The horizon of the new era is determined by your outlook and insistence," said Qarrash, an independent Islamist, exhorted the audience at the Professional Associations Complex.

"This is not only an interval between two eras," he said. "With your intelligence and your steadfastness and depending on your reciprocity with the new stage and not leaving decisions to parliamentary discussions or government decisions, you can determine the future of this era," Qarrash asserted.

Madanat, a self-declared communist, placed great faith in the awareness and the consciousness of the people of Jordan and expressed his faith in their "intelligence by instinct."

"Our people have experience... they know how it feels not to have democracy and to be oppressed," he said. "So now they will be very careful with what they have received so far."

This concern and protection of what he described as "democratic air" and his faith in the people's zeal over continuing the "foundations of democracy and ensuring its continuation and development is the main gain towards solving all its problems and avoiding any repetition of the past."

Tarawneh, an Arab nationalist, pointed out that public participation in the building of a new Jordan and making decisions aimed at creating justice ruled by the law "will develop the mentality of the people from the state of negative thinking to positive and fruitful interaction."

He warned against what he described as "extremism in public thinking and overstepping the limits of reality or not absorbing it," and said that this situation will help create "a state of imbalance in dealing with the new democratic moves."

National charter

All three parliamentarians said they found no need for a national charter governing political pluralism in the Kingdom. However, they also conceded that there was little they could do to preempt the drafting of the charter, which

His Majesty King Hussein has said would be presented to the people for a referendum.

The deputies maintained that the concern over the creation of a national charter was that it would "supercede the constitution, representing a breach of the constitution, and pose a dilemma to the work of the courts."

Qarrash posed a hypothetical question: What would happen if a situation occurred whereby there was a controversy over an issue pertaining to political life in Jordan? "How will the court rule then? Will they go back to the original, which is the Constitution, or refer to the national charter, and thus undermine the Constitution?"

Madanat argued that Article 16 II of the Constitution stipulates that "Jordanians are entitled to establish societies and political parties provided that the objectives of such societies and parties are lawful, their methods peaceful and their by-laws not contrary to the provisions of the Constitution." The article guarantees Jordanians an absolute right in forming political parties without "interference" from a national charter, he asserted.

In light of this article, the argument of the deputies is that the country's political activists need no further qualified conditions to setting up parties.

Obviously they fear that there could be provisions in the proposed national charter which would curtail or impose limitations on the freedoms enjoyed by political parties as and when they are created.

On the other hand, the deputies skirted the possibility of the national charter reaffirming religious coexistence of Jordanians in the Kingdom and underlining the right of people of all religions to work together as equal citizens as well as emphasising the need for national unity among all Jordanians regardless of ethnic origins.

The issue of the national charter, according to observers, remains unclear until defined by the expected-to-be-appointed royal commission which will be entrusted with charting the document.

The Lower House, in its reply to the speech from the throne Nov. 27, called for direct participation by Lower House members in drafting the national charter despite the fact that no specific details have been released whether or not deputies would be asked to be members of the royal commission.

Al Ra'i, Al Dustour elect board members

AMMAN (J.T.) — The general assemblies of two local Arabic dailies Wednesday elected their boards of directors at separate meetings, in accordance with a government order to do so following the reversal of a decision taken in 1988 by the Economic Security Committee (ESC).

The Jordan Press Foundation, which publishes the Arabic daily Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times, elected the following members to serve on the board: Mahmoud Al Kayed, Mohammad Al Amad, Ali Abul Ragheb and Ramzi Muasher (from the private sector) who were joined also as board members by Radwan Abu Hammoud, Ahmad Taher, Yousef Al Suradi and Samir Qarden from the Social Security Corporation (SSC) and Ali Ghazal from the Jordan Investments Corporation.

The Jordan Press, Publishing and Distribution Company (Al Dustour) elected as its directors Kamel Al Sharif, Mahmoud Al Sharif, Hassan Al Tal, Simaan Al Bouri and a representative of the Jordan Arab Investment Bank.

The SSC is to be represented by Riad Al Saifi, Dr. Adnan Abdul Halim Abbas, Abdul Ilah Al Tabbaa, while the Jordan Investments Corporation will be

represented by Radi Ibrahim.

Both boards are to meet Thursday to elect their chairmen and discuss the two establishments' programmes and operations.

On Dec. 11, the ESC took a decision reversing its own decision of August 1988 of assuming in administrative and editorial control of the two papers. The government became a major shareholder of the three papers on Jan. 1, 1986 after transforming the papers from private into public shareholding companies.

The government, through the SSC and other organisations, owns 61 per cent of the shares of Al Ra'i, 53 per cent of Al Dustour and 85 per cent of Sawt Al Shaab, which was originally established as a public shareholding company.

Last week, Minister of Information Ibrahim Izzeddin said that the government of Prime Minister Badran plans to re-examine the status of the press and reconsider the question of newspaper ownership.

Izzeddin said in a statement to the Jordan Times that the prime minister had specifically stated that there should be a clearly defined concept separating ownership of newspapers and freedom of expression.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

GUVS ANNOUNCES PROJECT: The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) is to take part in a social development project which will be carried out in the southern parts of Jordan in cooperation with the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QASF). GUVS President Abdullah Al Khatib said Wednesday by Al Dustour Arabic daily newspaper. Khatib said that GUVS would contribute JD 20,000 to the JD 100,000 project aimed at helping poor families raise their living standards through small and medium sized schemes. The project, which will mostly benefit rural areas and residents of villages in the south, will be conducted through charitable and voluntary societies, Khatib added.

TUNISIAN MINISTER MEETS ENVOY: Tunisian Minister of Tourism Mohammad Igham Wednesday received Jordan's Ambassador to Tunisia Talal Sa'ad Al Hassan and discussed with him tourism cooperation, means to develop cooperation in the field of hotel management, and the prospects of holding a Jordanian touristic week in Tunisia in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism and the Royal Jordanian (Petra).

ROMANIAN COMMEMORATION: The Romanian community in Jordan will attend a mass Friday at the Greek Orthodox Church in Abdali to mourn the victims of the revolution that toppled Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. The new Romanian leaders have called for a day of mourning Friday for the Romanians who fell under the guns of Ceausescu's secret police, the Securitate.

BIO-ENERGY COURSE: The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) has participated in a training course on bio-energy held recently in Mogadishu, Somalia. The course, attended by researchers at the RSS Renewable Energy Research Centre, Khaled Touqan, helped exchange information and expertise among participating experts in renewable energy applications from Arab countries (Petra).

ZABEN MEETS IRAQI DOCTORS: Health Minister Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben had a meeting Wednesday with a delegation representing Iraqi forensic doctors. The delegation is now on a visit to Jordan to discuss bilateral cooperation to serve the interests of the Jordanian and Iraqi people. The two countries, he said, can exchange expertise and information related to primary health care as well as other fields (Petra).

MEAT CHECKS: Heads of municipal councils in the Kingdom will adopt necessary measures to inspect all stores which sell frozen meat to make sure that temperatures at refrigerators do not rise above -18 degrees Centigrade, according to a demand made by the Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and Environment Abdul Karim Al Dahgumi. The demand, adopted in accordance with recommendations presented by the Ministry of Health, provides for destroying frozen meat kept outside refrigerators. Violators will be prosecuted (Petra).

JIEC BOARD: The Cabinet has decided to extend the membership of government and public institutions' representatives in the Jordan Industrial Estate Corporation (JIEC). The members are Mohammad Mahdi Al Farhan, Adel Al Qdahi, Dr. Safwan Touqan, Mohammad Saleh Al Hourani, Mawther Al Sa'udi, and Mansour Al 'Utoum (Petra).

Syria, Jordan reach agreement on travel

DAMASCUS (J.T.) — A joint Syrian-Jordanian committee has reached agreement here on ways to facilitate transit and transport operations between Jordan and Syria in a bid to boost tourism and promote transport in line with resolutions passed by the joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee.

Dr. Mohammad Simadi, secretary-general of the Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications who headed the Jordanian side to the talks, said that the two sides had agreed to organise matters related to bus terminals, fares and other services connected with passengers

China announces preparation for September Asian Games

AMMAN (Petra) — Members of a visiting Chinese Olympic Committee have reported that an advanced Olympic village was built in preparation for the Asian Games, which will be held in China in September.

In a press conference they held Wednesday at the Jordanian Olympic Committee building in Amman, the delegation members

said China would do its best to make the games successful.

The Chinese delegation arrived in Amman Tuesday and held talks with a number of officials dealing with bilateral youth and sporting relations as well as Jordan's participation in the Asian Games. The Kingdom has already confirmed its participation in the games.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

★ An exhibition entitled "They chose 30 poets" at the French Cultural Centre.

FILMS

★ A feature film entitled "It Came Upon Midnight Clear" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.
★ A Soviet film entitled "The Risk" at the Soviet Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
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U.S. must blame Shamir

NOW that the projected meeting between the foreign ministers of Egypt and Israel with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has been effectively put on the back burner as has long been anticipated, Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is shedding crocodile tears over this development. Nothing suits more the designs of Shamir and all the enemies of peace that walk behind him than to see the entire peace process in the Middle East derailed for the upstems time. It is common knowledge that Shamir is determined to procrastinate over the hard decisions that have to be taken in order for the peace process to have a chance, and is comforted whenever an initiative or proposal to get him on talking terms with the Palestinians gets bogged down.

There is no doubt that this time around, Baker's five-point plan was nipped in the bud by Shamir right from the word go. His refusal to entertain a role for the PLO was his prescription to deal a death blow to the whole idea and he knew this all along. Once again Shamir and like-minded Israelis have become the real villains in getting the peace process to a dead end and now is the time to speak out more openly about where the responsibility lies for this unfortunate state of affairs in the Middle East. Since all the fingers are pointed in the direction of Shamir and the hard-liners in Israel as the real culprits for strangulating the only peace proposal on the negotiating table, Washington is duty-bound to spell out this fact for the entire world to hear. There are no more legitimate or reasonable excuses left to the U.S. to hush up the direct responsibility of Israel for killing off yet another sincere effort to get the Israelis and Palestinians around the negotiating table, and is invited to reveal the guilty party. It serves no useful purpose to keep Israel unexposed and unidentified as the principal obstacle to peace in the Middle East. It is only through naming the guilty party at point blank would the Israeli people begin to reconsider their views and options, while the international community crystallises its final judgement in no uncertain terms about how to proceed henceforth and how to deal with Tel Aviv.

The remaining question is where the parties to the Middle East conflict can go from here, now that there are no more peace initiatives still living and kicking. A more determined effort by the international community to break the Israeli ice about the indispensable role of the PLO in any meaningful negotiations to resolve once and for all the Palestinian case is the best that it can perform at this stage. Now that there are cracks in the Israeli wall against accepting the PLO as the principal party in any responsible negotiations leading to peace and harmony between the Palestinians and the Israelis, it should not be too difficult to widen these cracks and make the Israeli wall of defiance tumble as the Berlin Wall has done in 1989.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday commented on King Hussein's statement at a meeting with an American delegation Tuesday in which he exposed Israel's intransigence vis a vis the Arab-Israeli conflict. Since its creation on Arab soil in Palestine, Israel has not displayed any sign of its genuine desire for peace and has since 1967 been directing its policies towards aggression, the paper noted. King Hussein explained these facts to the visitors in the course of reviewing the situation in the Arab region, urging the American public opinion to help end the conflict in the region and bring about a just peace not only in Palestine but also in Lebanon, and the Gulf region, the paper added. King Hussein said as the Israelis were adopting a hardened position, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Arab nation at large have been offering a hand of peace and seeking to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions based on justice and ensuring an independent state for the Palestinian people in Palestine, the paper noted. It said that the King has again urged the world community to help the Middle East live in peace.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday comments on the situation in the local markets with the absence of sufficient meat that used to come from Romania and other Eastern Bloc countries. "I really wish that imported meat stopped so that our farmers can have the incentive to produce more meat for the market, and our young educated men turn their attention to farming instead of seeking jobs in offices," says Tareq Masarweh. The writer recalls the days when Jordanian families used to be self-sufficient of all food supplies because they used to keep sheep and grow food; and says: "If we love our country we must begin changing our life style and turn our attention to exploiting our resources, our land and our livestock so as to become self-sufficient and stop importing food supplies from other countries". The writer calls on the Jordanian public to consume what is being produced locally and to stop a life-style that prevailed in Jordan during the boom years of the 1970s. The writer says that Jordanians have to offer sacrifice so that they can have a brighter future and end their dependence on others.

Al Dustour Arabic daily said that King Hussein advocated the PLO's ideas for peace based on justice and presented the Arab nation's views which support the PLO. He said that the PLO which represents the Palestinian people has been offering peace to Israel in exchange for land, but the Israelis were adamant in their position and they refuse to give the Palestinians their rights and their lands, the paper noted. It said that the peace onslaught launched by the PLO is feared by the Israelis who are continuing to oppress the Palestinian people under their rule and continue the drive to colonise Palestine. King Hussein, the paper said, told the American delegation that Israel was defying the will of the international community and refusing to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions which can bring about a lasting peace to the region. It said that the United States which helps Israel shoulders a great responsibility as a superpower to establish peace based on justice.

East Europe's wary reformers watch new leaders

By Nicholas Rhythian
Reuters

VIENNA — Veterans of the street protests that smashed the Communist hold on power in Eastern Europe are watching their new leaders like hawks, fearful that prize of democracy will be snatched from under their noses.

With the first free elections in four decades just months away, the votes of the East Bloc's reawakened masses are up for grabs.

But many former dissidents say the Communists, in the guise of reformers, are trying to cling to power by sabotaging the democratic process.

"The people are unhappy. Every day workers come to see me and say 'why did you carry out the revolution. Can't you see that the same old people are still in power,'" veteran Romanian dissident Doina Cornea said in the town of Cluj.

"We are angry because the old Communists are still in power but they are using a different name. Nothing has changed," said a 21-year-old Bucharest student.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev let the genie of people's power out of the bottle with his glasnost and perestroika reforms. Bloodily in Romania, peacefully elsewhere, his East Bloc Communist allies have been forced to relax their grip on power, leaving the Soviet Union the only Warsaw Pact country that has not abandoned or promised to abandon old style, one-party rule.

While Gorbachev treads a delicate path between the demands of the Soviet Union's increasingly restive nationalities and hardline Communists, opposition activists elsewhere are giving notice that people's power must mean just that.

"Down with the Communists," chanted 100,000 marchers Monday in Leipzig, where East Germany's reform movement began. The East German opposition,

their eyes fixed on free elections in May, have threatened to return to the streets and call strikes if the Communists do not give them more say.

They accuse reform Communists still in power of denying them the means of campaigning properly and of spreading fears of a neo-fascist revival to disguise a return of the hated Stasi security police, officially disbanded last month.

In Romania, the students, one of the few groups that can mobilise nationally, have been the most vocal critics of the National Salvation Front, the provisional government since the December overthrow and execution of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

"We can repeat Timisoara, we can repeat Bucharest," a student leader told a mass weekend rally, referring to the bloody actions of the Romanian revolution.

Several thousand students from all over the country, who packed a hall in Bucharest Polytechnic, cheered wildly when one of their leaders said no former Communists should be in power after free elections planned for April.

In Hungary, the opposition accuses the reform Communists in power there of bugging and snooping on non-Communists ahead of free elections planned for March.

"I think we cannot trust the present government," said Laszlo Kovér, leader of the opposition youth group Fidesz.

In Bulgaria, the reform Communist government and the opposition leaders are united over the needs to restore the rights of the country's Muslim minority.

But the opposition accuses Communist hardliners of fanning nationalist unrest over the issue, which revives bitter memories of 500 years of Ottoman rule, to hang onto power.

"The anti-reformers are trying to fight their last battle over the ethnic issue," said Zhelevo Zhelev, president of the opposition umbrella Union of Democratic Forces.



president of the opposition umbrella Union of Democratic Forces.

The Gorbachev gamble is that the Communist parties of Eastern Europe have the organisation and popular support needed to hold their own against an opposition that has barely had time to collect its thoughts.

In Poland, where the Solidarity trade union spearheaded the drive towards democracy, this did not work. Poles ended 45 years of Com-

munist rule last September when Solidarity Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki took power following largely free general elections.

In Romania and Czechoslovakia, it is too late for the Communists with a legacy of bitterness equating their rule with repressive Stalinism.

But elsewhere, a new breed of East European Communists are working hard to break their links with the past and portray themselves as forward-looking democratic socialists.

In Hungary, perhaps the most reformist of the old East Bloc Communist economies, reform Communists now belong to the Hungarian Socialist Party.

Bulgarian Communists, who sacked hardliner Todor Zhivkov in November, have relaxed state controls, promised elections and an end to their monopoly on power.

East Germany's Communist

Prime Minister Hans Modrow says new laws will give everyone an equal election chance.

But in Czechoslovakia, where former dissident playwright Václav Havel is now president, the pace of Communist change is apparently not fast enough.

Two leading Communist ministers there have taken matters into their own hands, quitting the party and leaving it in a clear minority in the interim coalition running the country until free elections promised by June.

Austria seeks its place as East Bloc Communism dissolves

By David Storey
Reuters

VIENNA — The collapse of Communist rule in Eastern Europe is stirring hopes and fears in Austria, which for nearly 40 years has seen itself as a neutral bridge between East and West.

The hope for new economic and cultural opportunities as the artificial postwar barriers dissolve is tempered by fears among Austrians of an unmanageable influx from the Eastern bloc.

The government is also weighing how the reshaping of the continent's economic map will affect its own top foreign policy objective — steering Austria into the European Community.

Chancellor Franz Vranitzky reflected the optimistic school of thought in an excellent New Year message to his 7.5 million countrymen.

"In one stroke, the expression 'country in the heart of Europe' does not just have a geographic sense but gains a political, economic and cultural dimension," he declared.

But he rejected the idea that Austria might be some form of political hemispheroid.

"It is often said Austria lies politically between East and West. That is false. In a political sense Austria belongs to the West," he said. Economically it does too, with trade dominated by exchanges with West Germany.

While Vienna and the Czechoslovak city of Bratislava were once linked by a tramline, the Austrian capital has become effectively the terminus of West European rail and road links.

Austria is the only country from which Red Army troops actually withdrew after World War II and, unlike neighbours Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia, it has maintained its multi-party democracy, free press and largely private economy.

Last year the government applied to join the European Community, which it considers vital if it is not to be shut out of the single EC market after 1992.

But, reflecting a line in the national anthem that the country is "like a strong heart at the centre of the region," it has taken its pivotal role seriously.

Austria is the site for several East-West security conferences, a United Nations headquarters and other institutes and it is arranging a world exhibition in 1995 jointly with Hungary.

Peter Michael Lingens, publisher of the Wochenpresse weekly magazine, spoke of a potential for Viennese culture to recapture the glories of the Austro-Hungarian empire, when it drew inspiration from Prague and Budapest.

The end of Communist control and opening up of borders across the region "offer us the greatest opportunities since the collapse of the monarchy (in 1918)," he said.

"Not because, as some people

may imagine, we could again become the centre of a great world empire but because Austria could re-emerge as a cultural power in the world," once again drawing on its diverse roots across the region.

While political commentators waxed lyrical about the chances for the Alpine state, the response within the overwhelmingly bourgeois society, which has grown rich while the Communist neighbours languished, has been ambivalent.

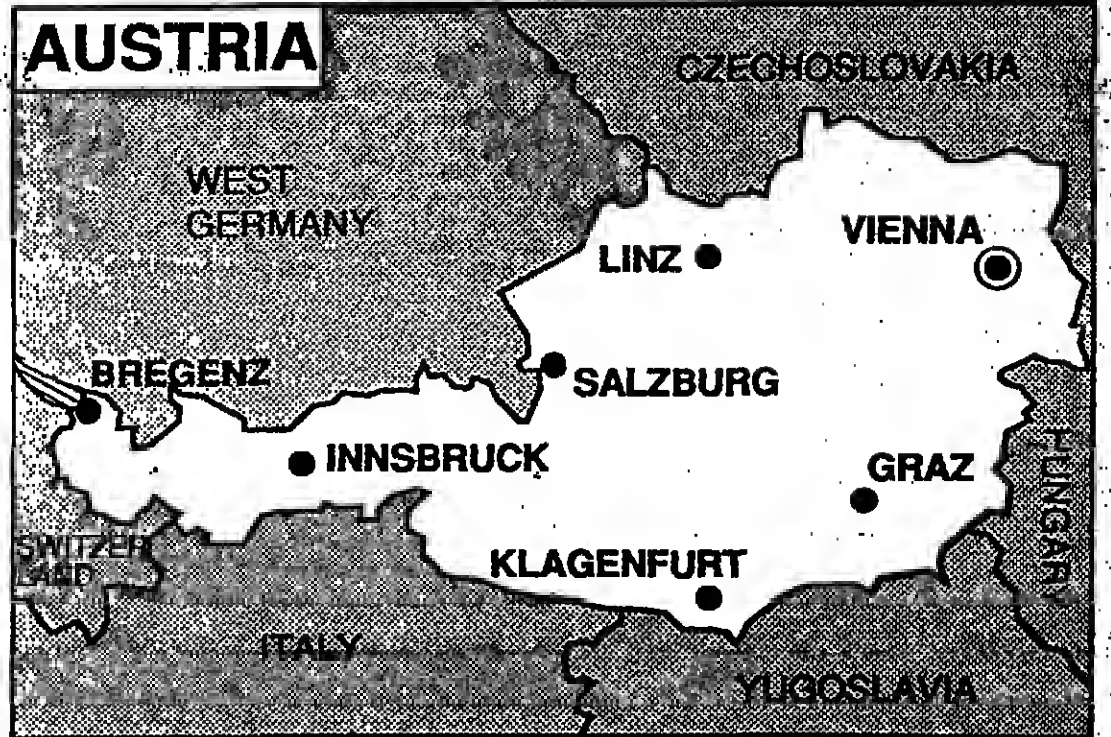
As tens to thousands of Czechs, Slovaks, Hungarians, Poles and East Germans took advantage of new freedoms to take a peek inside the well-stocked stores of Vienna's consumer society, many in the capital became defensive and possessive.

An opinion poll showed that 63 per cent of Viennese found the peaceful invasion across the dismantled iron curtain unwelcome and only 22 per cent said they felt good about it.

Warm-hearted gestures to offer free transport and theatre tickets to the obviously badly-off Eastern visitors drew angry protests from some Viennese who complained of discrimination.

"It is well known that we don't exactly have a great sensitivity for historic monuments," said public opinion researcher Rudolf Bretschneider.

Although the Vienna telephone directory is dominated by non-German names and many of the city's 1.5 million people are



themselves refugees from Communist countries, resentment towards foreigners from the East is always near the surface.

A Polish woman in her 30s who has lived in Vienna for more than four years was told sharply by a native Viennese during a row over a disputed parking place: "Go back to your homeland."

A special cabinet session on the anti-Communist revolution across Austria's northern, southern and eastern borders, confirmed the country should retain

its role as a transit and asylum country but tighten its checks on illegal workers.

Many politicians, including Vranitzky, feel Austria, with its stability and economic success, could be taken as a model by the East Bloc states as they rebuild their economies.

"We too had to start from nothing (after World War II), and today we receive general recognition and respect for our neutrality, our political freedom, our economic success and our

Social Security system," the chancellor said.

Other commentators, like veteran conservative politician Erhard Busch who has long cultivated Central European links, injected an element of caution.

Although Busch saw an opportunity for Austria to assert itself as a key player in the heart of Europe, he warned of the danger of the German-speaking country being viewed as "a third German state" or an historic part of the German nation.

Mandela's release offers gains for everybody

By Brendan Boyle
Reuters

CAPE TOWN — Nelson Mandela's release after 26 years in jail looks set to bolster the aims of both blacks and whites in South Africa.

For blacks, it could fill a leadership vacuum and help to reunite the divided anti-apartheid opposition.

For whites, the rewards of releasing the world's most famous political prisoner could include improved credibility in a hostile world and possibly a visit from British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

In the longer term, it could promote a negotiated peace after 30 years of low-level guerrilla war between South Africa's white rulers and its disenfranchised blacks, who outnumber them by five-to-one.

Mandela, 71, signalled for the first time Monday that he expects to be freed soon, asking his wife Winnie to begin preliminary

arrangements for his release.

"I don't think we are talking about months any longer," she told reporters after visiting Mandela at the Victor Verster Prison 60 kilometres north east of Cape Town.

Mandela, a Johannesburg lawyer, was second in command of the outlawed African National Congress (ANC) when he was arrested in August 1962 to face charges that culminated in a life sentence for plotting to overthrow white rule.

ANC members say he holds no title now within the movement that celebrated its 78th anniversary Monday, but he is a member of the policy-making National Executive Committee.

The movement has so far declined to be drawn on whether Mandela could replace ailing President Oliver Tambo, who is being treated in a Swedish clinic for brain damage.

Thabo Mbeki, son of Mandela's friend and former fellow prisoner Govan Mbeki, is widely



Nelson Mandela

tipped to take the job in elections later this year.

Activist sources inside South Africa acknowledge there is some resistance to handing control of

the ANC to Mandela, and say radical rivals including militant ANC army commander Chris Hani could oppose him and Mbeki as being too moderate.

"I think Mandela will take leadership, that he will have enormous influence in the ANC," said Fatima Meer, a professor of sociology in Durban and Mandela's personal biographer.

"With the return of Mandela to the disenfranchised people there will be a return of the traditional strong voice and guidance that has characterised the ANC."

"He is a consensus man. He wants to understand and he wants to guide. He has tremendous confidence in himself and what we could do for South Africa as a facilitator," she said.

Meer said 30 years of often vicious government repression had left the anti-apartheid movement fragmented and leaderless.

Mandela could fill the gap, rallying squabbling factions in a united drive against apartheid

and towards a negotiated settlement with President F.W. de Klerk's white government.

"He is going to face huge expectations, but he has the love and the respect of people from all factions, from blacks and whites, even from the traditional leaders."

"Knowing him as I do, I think he is going to do his best to bridge the differences and bring the disenfranchised people together."

Meer said she did not expect African leaders to give Pretoria much credit for Mandela's release, but diplomats based in South Africa disagreed.

"Releasing Mandela is the single most important move that the South African government could make," said one diplomat.

"I will transform the situation in many ways, though this act alone will not transform South Africa's relations with the rest of the world. That will depend on what follows," he said.

The diplomats said Mandela's release would be the strongest

signal yet of De Klerk's intention to begin substantive talks with credible black leaders about political power sharing.

Some also said it would promote De Klerk's efforts to forge trading links and limited diplomatic ties with other African leaders.

"It is bound to take further the process that is already under way in South Africa's efforts towards greater access in Africa," said one.

The foreign prize De Klerk is believed to want most is a visit to Pretoria by Margaret Thatcher, who would be the first British Prime Minister to visit South Africa in 30 years.

"Mandela's release would change the status of that hope from being impossible to being at least a possibility," one Western diplomat said.

At home, De Klerk needs accepted black leaders to sit down with him to talk. Mandela's release could be the biggest impetus yet towards that goal.



Risking their life if they are spotted by Israeli soldiers, these youths paint messages to the community from leaders of the uprising.

The writing is on the wall

By Philippa Neave

RAMALLAH — One trick you learn on an ordinary day spent in a town like Ramallah in the occupied West Bank is how to turn a busy shopping street into a war zone in under four minutes; just whistle.

Perhaps it was not such an ordinary day: for one thing, the shops were open. After long days of curfew imposed by the Israeli army that had killed all activity, families were scurrying to gather enough staples to face the next three or four days of curfew when they would have to remain locked in their homes all day and night. So people bustled about in the main street of Ramallah.

Suddenly, a group of youths gathered at the corner of the high street and started to whistle. Like a strange domino-effect, metal shutters slammed down one after the other. Within two minutes the street was deserted. Sirens sounded and seconds later, the street was full of military jeeps, soldiers pounced, sweeping the air with their machine guns. But there was nothing or no-one to shoot at.

The troops went away, but the stores did not re-open. It was a short day for shopkeepers who have lost heavily during two years of Palestinian rebellion. Lucky if they can sell their wares a few mornings here and there. But then any notion of normality is an illusion in the occupied territories: Workers don't work, students don't study, children don't go to school, people can't go out or visit each other, civilised society as it exists in other parts of the world is agonising.

Two years of intifada with its demonstrations, killing of teenagers and children by the Israeli army, curfews, arbitrary arrests, restrictions of movement and school closures have destroyed the social fabric to the point that the breakdown of law and order is almost total. For want of any competent authority, people are making their own rules and taking the law into their own hands.

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin estimates that about 40,000 Palestinians have been arrested since the intifada began, many of them more than once. And according to United Nations figures 37,000 have been wounded. West Bank schools reopened last summer after nearly 18 months of closure, but they were ordered to close again recently for two months.

Besides the deaths of children in the streets, one of the most flagrant signs of the disease eating into the social body is the increasing number of executions — or murder, depending on which side you are on — of Palestinians accused of collaborating with the Israeli occupying forces. Twenty years of occupation have produced a substantial crop of people who in some way work or have worked with the Israelis for personal gain, but it seems that recruitment has increased dramatically since the beginning of the uprising.

Said 40-year-old Anita Vitullo who has lived in the occupied territories for over 10 years: "Before the intifada, the authorities used a limited group of collaborators but did not rely on them for high intelligence; they used them mainly for land fraud. It was not a well developed network, they usually chose the marginal elements in society who had already been singled out by the community as third generation collaborators from families who had worked before with the Turks and the British."

American-born Vitullo is married to Palestinian journalist Souman Khouri, a correspondent for the international news agency Agence France Presse who is currently in jail. She has worked on human rights issues and is also a writer who has studied the question of collaborators closely. Things have changed a great deal

since (the beginning of the uprising in) December 1987, she explains. "Now we're seeing a much broader sweep — mass recruiting, it is quantity rather than quality that the (Israeli) authorities are after."

Collaborators reportedly operate in every neighbourhood, village or refugee camp, forming what seems to be an effective network that has spread and mistrust throughout the communities of the occupied territories where approximately 2.3 million Palestinians live.

Adds Vitullo: "There are different levels of collaborator activities. At the highest level are people who are actually armed by the Israeli authorities and who use their weapons. We estimate that they number several hundred: there's one in every village, and probably 10 in every town. There are cases when a patrol of Israeli soldiers will be accompanied by the local collaborator to show where houses are that they want to destroy or to point out youths they want to arrest."

Arming collaborators is a recent development. They in turn surround themselves with body guards who also carry weapons, effectively constituting a small militia. "There is very active participation in militia activities on the part of the Israeli authorities," Vitullo said.

Instead of receiving weapons, another sort of collaborators are given communication devices, usually 2-way radios, she said. "That way, they can report on the whereabouts of wanted youths, on activities, when and where demonstrations are going to start, so that the Israeli soldiers can move in immediately." This seems to be most widespread in the Gaza Strip.

In return for their services, collaborators are given different advantages. "There are several systems. Some people are given land, others local power, i.e. the power to issue permits and licences as they please. Others are given drugs, or even sexual favours," Vitullo said.

An unexpected development is that Palestinians are shunning the traditional networks of traffickers dealing in arms or drugs because it is said that either they have sold out to the military authorities which control the routes for these two commodities into the territories, or they are in such a compromising position that they

can easily be blackmailed into collaborating.

Methods of recruiting collaborators vary widely. Vitullo said: "There is a known case, in which a high school teacher who was a suspected collaborator invited young students to his house. They were very young and he would lure them into very compromising situations and then used photographs or video tapes to blackmail them into reporting on fellow students and any activities in the school."

"Also, we are seeing very young children, from the ages of 8 or 9 to 13 being beaten just for intimidation. It is a primitive method of recruiting, but it is widely used to scare them into reporting on the activities of other kids in the schools or neighbourhoods."

An age-old method is to plant information among prisoners. Hassan, who asked that his last name not be used, said he had plenty of time to see how the system works in Israeli prisons. He agreed to an interview the day after he was released from jail, after 45 days in detention. At 27, he has been in and out since he was a young teenager, although no charges have been filed against him.

"First of all, the Israeli military quite often uses collaborators as interrogators. They also mix them with prisoners and some are actually given prison sentences — up to life — to make them more believable," he explained. "If you can't get information out of you after interrogation, beating or torture, they can throw you into a whole room full of collaborators. After 45 days of interrogation, a prisoner thinks at last he is among his own people. They'll ask him what political group he belongs to and pretend to be friends. You have to be very careful about what you say to whom in prison these days."

Military statistics show that about 170 Palestinians accused of collaborating have been killed during the past two years, with a sharp increase in recent months. Israelis point to the savagery of the killings, while Palestinians list their long list of "martyrs" — more than 700 killed by Israeli troops since the beginning of the intifada. Among the Palestinians killed because of collaborators, people often cite the case of Yasser Abdul Ghosh, who at 17 was known as the "dynamo" or "hero" of Ramallah. "One day

he was followed by the Shin Bet (secret services) who were in civilian clothes," a local school teacher recalled. "They shot him in the neck and wouldn't let the nearby doctor to take care of him. They threw him on the back of a jeep and drove through the town with his head hanging over the edge, leaving a trail of blood pouring down."

The PLO leadership has called for a stop to the killing of collaborators and the Israelis have moved to protect the most prominent by allowing them to live in Israel or in Jewish settlements. But the killings will probably go on increasing as people's despair mounts.

According to Vitullo and other sources, many executions include due process for the accused: "Palestinians have a very well-worked-out system which operates like an underground people's tribunal. If someone is suspected of criminal activities or active collaboration that is endangering the community, people who have some degree of leadership will issue him a warning — written, by telephone or by actually going to him. If they are in doubt, they will interrogate him. He is given the chance to explain himself, repent and turn in his arms if he's been armed by the authorities. They would only decide to execute him in extreme cases."

But given the breakdown of legal structures after the Israeli troops moved in, and the fragmentation of what was once a close-knit society, there is plenty of room for thugs to wage their own dirty wars, taking advantage of the chaos to act out family feuds and settle accounts. Groups of youths have set themselves up as would-be law-enforcers. They roam the streets calling themselves the Black Panther or Red Eagle, carrying out executions of collaborators and others, and scaring people into obedience. PLO leader Yasser Arafat has repeatedly called for the disbanding of such groups with little effect.

Palestinians have had bad press for supporting, or at least not condemning the killing of collaborators, but said Vitullo: "I have never, ever heard one Israeli, somebody in authority like a member of the Knesset (Israeli Parliament), condemn the killing of a Palestinian child" — World News Link.

Focus on people

'Kiss me — I'm Arab'ian'

By Mariam M. Shahin

SONS AND DAUGHTERS of first-generation immigrants to the United States are often too busy being "real Americans," playing football, cheerleading at school, making honours lists in college and successful in the professional world. Rarely are they known to take their privileges as American citizens to the political arena. Ethnic politics, as many call it, is a phenomenon which has grown throughout the U.S. in the 1980s and is bound to grow further in the 1990s. Whether Hispanic, African, Italian, Greek or Arab-American, ethnic politics is no longer considered strange or anti-American, it has become the trend in a new America that is becoming more multi-cultural and multi-racial than ever before.

Jesse Jackson's "Rainbow Coalition," which has united African, Hispanic and Arab-Americans, is one example of an organised political-ethnic coalition in the U.S. today. Arab-Americans have been well-adjusted, well-adapted, integrating, industrious, law abiding and tax-paying citizens for the past 100 years. One thing they have not been, however, is politically active. In fact, many argue that Arab-Americans have been precisely the opposite of that. Fearing retributions and intimidations, they have remained mute in America's political arena — possibly for too long. While ethnic minorities were holding fund-raisers and sporting T-shirts such as "Kiss me — I'm Armenian," many Arab-Americans seemed almost to hide their origins or at best "not make an issue of being an Arab-American." But as the song says "the times are — a — changing," and one Arab-American who broke the monotonous inactivity James Zogby, was in Amman on a private visit earlier this week and agreed to speak to Focus on People about the political developments among Arab-Americans.

At 43, James Zogby, the son of immigrant parents from Kasrwan in Mount Lebanon, is one of a growing number of "outstanding" Arab-Americans who may be in the process of changing the face of America.

While America, since its creation, did sport the face of Miss Liberty, it did not always do what it preached. In fact, for many minority groups, who were as loyal to the American Constitution, if not more so than other Americans, equal pay for equal work was as much a liberty as they ever saw. While it might be much more than what most countries can hope to offer their citizens, America is different.

America has, by its own definition, become a society to which much of the world looked up to as the land of the free and the brave. Only free and brave are the winners. The partial success of civil rights activist Martin Luther King made him brave and some of his people, at least, free of their social and psychological bondage. As a martyr, he became an American hero, a symbol of American freedom to the world, because he fought and won. Those Americans who marched for a U.S. pullout from Vietnam were called traitors, the named soldiers who followed orders to fight the Vietnamese, to save them from themselves, were spat upon once they returned to America. They weren't winners! Enough of America bashing. The point is made. Now let us look at a new beginning.

LIKE most other children of immigrants, James Zogby was never overly concerned about his parental origins, or that they could make him stand out in any way from the rest of "the kids in the class," and therefore it was not until a "disturbing" incident occurred that he became aware of any discrimination from his peers.

"When I was in college in the 1950s," he recalls, "I became very involved in the anti-war movement and the civil rights movement. Many of my classmates were involved as well. In 1967, I was active in a programme called the 'brothers project'. Wounded Vietnamese children were brought to the U.S. to receive medical attention and we, the activists, would help take care of them."

He also recalls the June 1967 war in the Middle East. "The war was covered in a very biased manner by the American media. Many of my fellow anti-war civil rights activists who had protested violently against the napalming of Vietnamese children cheered in joy about the napalming of Arab children in Palestine. They cheered for the 'victor', Israel. To say the least, I was numb. One of my fellow activists who was also a member of the Jewish Defence League, looked at me and said: 'You Arab dog.' There was no reason for him to say that. I had not even talked about my Arab origins and had still not been able to comment on the events of June '67, I was too numb. But when he said that I lost my numbness I got mad," Zogby remembers.

In 1971 Zogby and his Irish-American wife went to Lebanon. The immediate reason for the visit was to gather information for his dissertation, "My wife read George Antonius' book 'The Arab Awakening' before we left. While we were in Lebanon we saw so much and talked to so many people. We visited a lot of camps. On the way back my wife looked at me and said, 'James, you know we will never be the same again after this.' It was true," says Zogby.

Zogby obtained a doctorate in comparative religion and a doctoral fellowship from Princeton University. In the late 1970s he founded the Palestine Human Rights Campaign. In 1980, he co-founded the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) with fellow Arab-American James Abu Rizek. In 1982, he organised the "Save Lebanon" campaign. In 1985 he founded the Arab American Institute (AAI).

The Washington, D.C.-based AAI serves a grass-root constituency of 2.5 million Arab-Americans. The main beneficiaries are urban merchants and grocers. "We got our people in touch with the 'American system'. We got them in touch with aldermen, made them understand that they didn't have to bribe anyone to get a permit. Everyone thinks when Arab-Americans become

politically active, they are all going to sit there and talk about the U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East. That's not true. Arab-Americans have been around for over 100 years and they have the same problem as all other Americans — schools, taxes, plumbing, urban housing — that should be a standard," Zogby points out.

Zogby's attempt to move the "Arab-American agenda" into the country's political mainstream has been an uphill battle.

One of the most recent examples of discrimination against Arab-Americans by U.S. politicians came in 1988. The case of the "Dinkins campaign" became a central turning point in the awareness of many Arab-Americans. "We were told bluntly that Arab-Americans need not apply. It was as simple as that. David Dinkins, who is a fellow member in the Rainbow Coalition, felt it would be disadvantageous for his campaign if it was known that Arab-Americans supported him. To say the least, we were furious. Besides being an insult to us, it was an insult to the Jews as well, and I told them that," Zogby recalls. It is known that on several occasions U.S. candidates, running for a variety of public offices, have sent back campaign contributions that came from Arab-Americans.

"We kicked up a big fuss over the Dinkins affair. Our people are like all other Americans and we refuse to accept discrimination on any level. Jewish organisations in the U.S., as far as I know, have nothing to do with what's going on. The candidates fear the wrath of the Jewish voter," should the candidate seem 'pro-Arab' or so," say the candidates.

As far as U.S.-Middle East relations are concerned, "you know if there are other ways to skin that cat... I would love to see a creative approach coming from the U.S. government that would make a stable Middle East peace between Palestinians and Israelis so we can get on to other business," Zogby says. He refers to the Baker plan as "more of the same in the Kissinger mold."

Success is relative and Zogby admits that Arabs in America have a long way to go, "before we get there."

Some success has already been made. "In 1988, there were 55 Arab-American delegates to the Democratic convention in Atlanta. Among other things our rallying on the convention floor resulted in the adoption of 10 state convention amendments calling for Palestinian statehood," Zogby points out.

He points out that many Arab-Americans have high ranking public positions. "Over two dozen Arab-Americans are legislators; 24 are mayors; 30 are judges and two are senators."

"We care about our own welfare in America, and yes, we do care about U.S.-Arab relations. That is only natural," Zogby asserts.

"I was pleased with the way the American media were covering the intifada. Although coverage has become less frequent, when it is covered it is covered fairly. Americans now know that Palestinian children are threatening the mightiest military power in the Middle East. Other than the Israeli lobby and the far right Evangelical Christians, Israel hardly has any fans in the U.S. anymore. People are becoming more aware of what it means to have three billion plus of American tax dollars going to Israel. It means U.S. tax dollars are subsidising the occupation. South Lebanon 1985 has been annexed by Israel for all practical purposes," Zogby points out.

Zogby is getting involved in another committee. This time it's a committee on common security. "We are going to try to make a transfer from a war-based or defence-based economy to a welfare or common consumption-based economy. The whole military economy grew out of the Marshall plan. But the world has changed. So we hope to do away with weapons and military economies, and attach more responsibility to the tax dollar," he declared.

As a new generation of Arab-Americans grows up in the political arena their forefathers never knew, Zogby hopes they will be able to contribute more to their respective communities, freedom in America and understanding between Americans and Arabs.

"When I started we had no organisation, no infrastructure. We gave our kids the ADC, the AAUG and the AAI. Now let them fight and let them win. I know they will," Zogby says with confidence.

Announcement from the Government Tenders Directorate Tender No. 70/89/central Expansion of Zarqa sewage pumping station

Further to the announcement published on 07/11/1989 and 19/11/1989 in the local newspaper concerning the above mentioned tender. The new date set for bid opening at the Government Tenders Directorate is now at 13:30 on Wednesday, March 14th, 1990 instead of January 13th, 1990. Addendum No. (2) clarifying all questionnaires submitted to the Water Authority and the Government Tenders Directorate will be issued soonest possible.

Enj. J. Salem Qudah Chairman of the Central Tenders Committee General Director/Government Tenders Directorate

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Jordan Times

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Iranian parliament approves five-year economic schemes

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

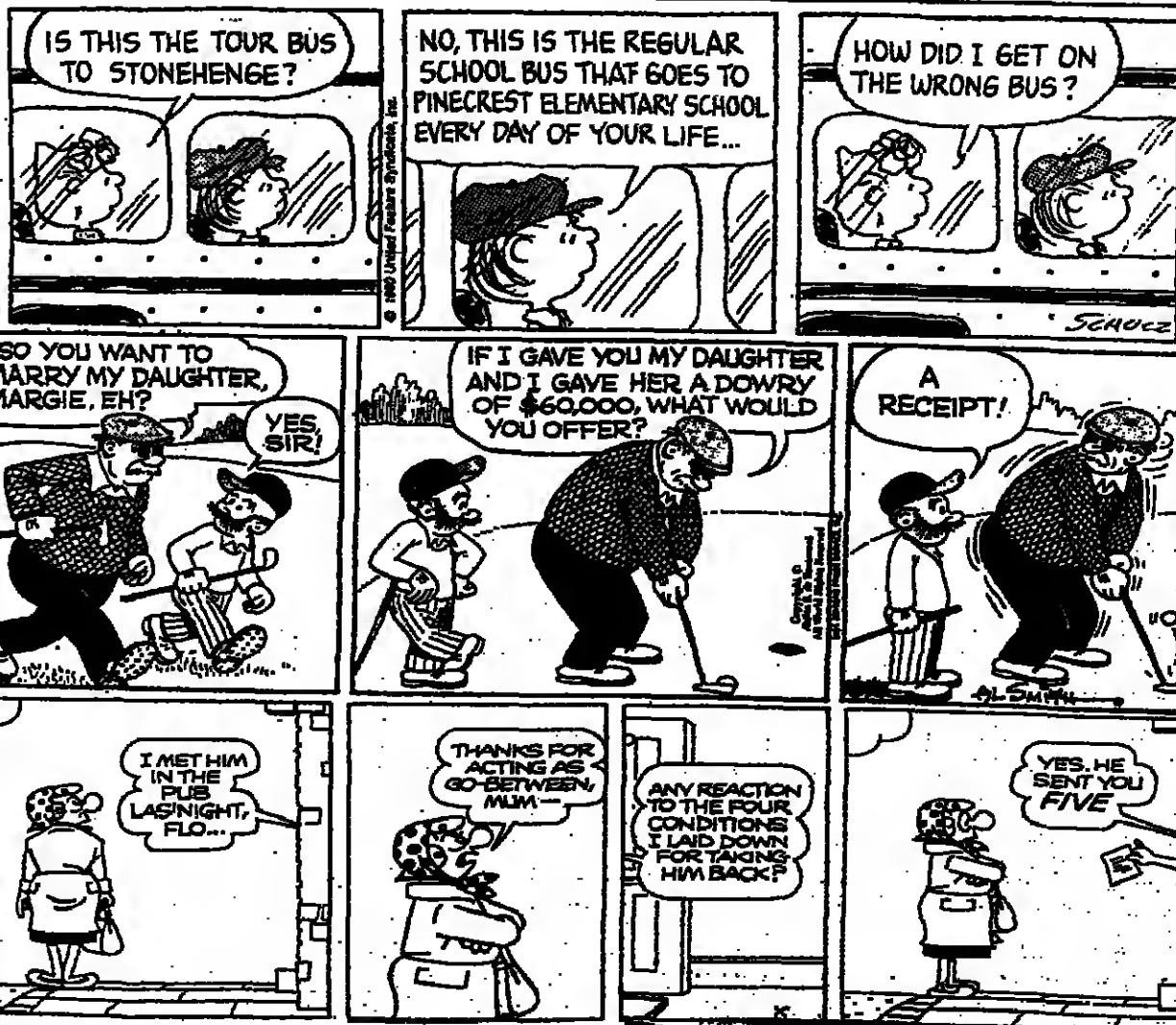
One Sterling	1.6610/20	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1590/1600	Canadian dollar
	1.6728/35	Deutschmarks
	1.8885/95	Dutch guilders
	1.5133/43	Swiss francs
	35.10/14	Belgian francs
	5.6980/7030	French francs
	1251/1252	Italian lire
	145.20/30	Japanese yen
	6.1150/1200	Swedish crowns
	6.4825/75	Norwegian crowns
	6.4900/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	405.90/406.40	U.S. dollars

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HARRIS

Answer: What the job of delivering parcels sometimes is—A BANG-UP ONE

Capp



McEnroe preparing for Australian Open

ADELAIDE, Australia (R) — John McEnroe, who once vowed never to play again in Australia, is making a big effort to prepare for next week's Australian Open despite dismissing it as less important than the other grand slam events.

The former center-forehand of the tennis circuit commented on the first grand slam of the 1990s as he began his preparations at the four-day Rio International challenge in Adelaide.

"I tried to get down here as early as I could to give myself the best chance," the American said. "I feel like I'm as prepared as I

have been, but it's always been a difficult tournament for me."

Last year, he won a rock star's welcome when he returned to the Australian Open for the first time since December 1985, when he had vowed never to play there again after clashes with the media and a shock defeat to Yugoslav Slobodan Zivonovic.

McEnroe never had his hatred of the cramped old Kooyong courts in Melbourne — the scene of his 1985 debacle — which he once described as "the worst grass court I have ever played on."

He was so incensed by the

"stating rink" conditions that he won a 21-day suspension for one two-week outburst in 1985.

The move to Flinders Park changed all that and this year, despite insisting that the open was "not as important as the other big tournaments," McEnroe said he was making a big effort to acclimatise to the Australian summer.

He guided the United States to the Hopman Cup final in Perth last week, only to lose to Spain, and has been travelling with wife Tatum O'Neal and young sons Kevin and Sean.

The world number four, who reached the quarter-finals last year and the semi-finals on grass at Kooyong in 1983 — his best performance at the open — said: "If conditions at Flinders park are reasonable, my chances are good."

"It's tough, if you go out there and it's 140 degrees (Fahrenheit, 60 centigrade) on the court, anything could happen."

But he added: "I couldn't play six or seven straight matches at the top of my game if it's hot."

McEnroe said the open could boil down to the survival of the fittest, favouring world number one Ivan Lendl.

"It's sort of like a crap shoot (dice game). There's not that many guys that are at their best form-wise, but some guys could be very fit at this time... A guy like Lendl, he gets down here early and he's very fit," McEnroe said.

Fitness fanatic Lendl, holder of the Australian crown, is playing in the New South Wales Open where he had an easy first round win over Andrew Sznajder of Canada 6-1, 6-3 on Wednesday.

New South Wales Open:

Mayotte, Shriver fall, Lendl, Becker advance

SYDNEY (R) — Americans Tim Mayotte and Pam Shriver were the big name casualties as the sun finally shone on the rain-soaked New South Wales Open tennis tournament on Wednesday.

Mayotte, seeded fourth in the men's singles, crashed out in straight sets to 18-year-old American qualifier Pete Sampras while women's fifth seed Shriver was beaten 6-3, 6-7, 7-5 by Czechoslovakia's Jana Novotna.

Sixth seed Andres Gomez of Ecuador also fell by the wayside, beaten 7-5, 6-4 by another American qualifier, David Wheaton.

Top two seeds Ivan Lendl and Boris Becker had no such problems as they cruised confidently into the second round with straight sets win over Canadian Andrew Sznajder and Alexander Volkov of the Soviet Union.

In the women's singles, Canada's Helen Kelesi, the third seed,

was beaten by France's Isabelle Demongeot while the seeded Americans Patty Fendick and Ros Fairbank and the Soviet Union's Larisa Savchenko also made early exits.

Mayotte's defeat was his second to Sampras who, after his shock win over Sweden's Mats Wilander at last year's U.S. Open, is emerging as one of the United States' bright young hopes.

"I don't know if he's psyched out by me but it seems as though he doesn't play as well as he's capable against me," said an elated Sampras later.

Lendl, who now meets Yugoslav's Goran Ivanisevic in the second round, did not relish the overcast, breezy conditions early in the day but still served 11 aces to overcome his former doubles partner Sznajder.

Becker was happier with his



performance against Volkov and said he was confident of producing a better performance at next week's Australian Open than he produced last year when he was beaten in the fourth round by Sweden's Jonas Svensson.

"I played better today than I did in last year's Australian Open," he said. "Last year I took too much time off between the Davis Cup final and the Australian Open but I came over earlier

this year because I didn't want to make the same mistake again."

The Wimbledon and U.S. Open champion also dismissed reports which quoted West Germany's David Cup captain Nikki Pilić as saying the 22-year-old Becker would retire from tennis in two years' time in search of a new, more intellectual challenge. "It's news to me. I have no idea what he had in the back of his mind," said Becker.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND CHAS SZNADER
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
*QJ985 ♠AK54 ♠AK54 ♠K
Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?
A.—You are going to play in game at least, but you need time to locate your best spot. Start off by responding one spade. A jump shift needs either a better suit or a powerful fit for partner's minor.
- Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
*QJ985 ♠AK54 ♠AK54 ♠K
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 NT Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.—It's time to show your strength. A jump shift to three hearts fits the bid nicely—second suit, strong hand, forcing to game.
- Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
*QJ985 ♠AK54 ♠AK54 ♠K
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 NT Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.—Although partner has shown no great liking for either of your suits and there might be some duplication of values in clubs, you are still good enough for one more move. The logical choice is four diamonds, bidding on your hand pattern. If partner has a five-card diamond suit, six diamonds could be on because his club looks like he's ruffed in your short-trump hand.
- Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
*9872 ♠AK 08852 ♠742
Partner opens the bidding with two no trump. What action do you take?
A.—You have just enough for game if your range is 22-24 points. If it is any lower, pass with safety. Because of your ruffing value, however, you should probe for the possibility of a 4-4 spade fit. Use the Stayman Convention—bid three clubs.
- Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
*AJ95 ♠93 0398 ♠AJ54
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.—You have a problem. You can't bid either black suit, three diamonds is an unattractive bid and four diamonds overstates your holding in partner's suit and bypasses three no trump. This leaves only a cue-bid, which is simply a one-round force in the modern style. Bid two hearts.
- Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
*Q87 ♠73 0AJ98 ♠AK63
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ 2 ♠ ?
What action do you take?
A.—If you use basic methods, double for penalties. That should produce at least a two-trick net and you can't be sure you have game. If you play negative doubles, you must pass, of course, and hope partner responds with a double.

HOROSCOPE

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Foundation
FORECAST FOR THURSDAY JANUARY 11, 1990

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a good day to reduce the ideas of the recent past into practical reality, especially where anything to do with career and personal finance is concerned.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Try to put your own special gift at work in gaining more financial success. Get your home organized on a more well rounded basis.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A good friend will help you with an obscure obligation. Take your attachment to see a relative who is younger than has not been seen lately.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Charm your family now by giving them some thoughtful presents. A woman will aid you in putting your points across with your loved one.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Don't let some tension keep you from seeing and enjoying a friend you like. Rely on a woman to handle tension with your mate.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You and your attachment should be more open to seeing more individuals. You need to look at the larger aspects of your business opportunities now.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) If you have been planning a home addition, start it now. A family member will now get along very well with your attachment.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A highly influential person can

now become a very good friend. A time to build up your assets, slowly but surely.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Accept the invitation of a younger friend in the same situation as yourself. Your family has the right to know where they stand with you with money.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Add beauty and color to your residence for more harmony. You need to be very selective in which friends you see at this time.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Your usual ideas could be just great for you now. Little courtesies will now more impress your attachment that are done by you.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Many friends will now vie to entertain you in your spare time. Invite anyone in your home who is able to aid you in business plans.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) There will be much vitality in your emotional relationship now. A non-combative and gentle attitude is suggested at home now.

Today's child: If your child were born today he or she will be very magnetic, attracting both the right and the wrong types of friends. This progeny will need some guidance and assistance where discrimination and evaluation is required. A decided ability for business and finance is indicated.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY JANUARY 12, 1990

GENERAL TENDENCIES: An innate restlessness breeds most everyone throughout the day into early evening. Unwise, sudden and dramatic changes, that are not beneficial occur at the drop of a hat.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A couple from a distance will have excellent advice for your future. You can make money through now making a business risk.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Reconsider something special to your attachment brings much happiness. Fixing up your home can be easily accomplished now.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Be off with close friends to see interesting companions nearby. Take your attachment today to interesting group activities that you both enjoy.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You will be tempted to spend more money than is sensible. Don't invite an interesting group into your home at this time.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Be off and about to interesting activities with your attachment. Discussing practical matters with friends can be very helpful now.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Restlessness at home requires that you and your family get out of the house. If you are going to do business now a large firm is best.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Seeing too much of one friend can cause you unnecessary problems.

Scorpio: (October 23 to November 21) Have a frank talk with your family about your ambitions. Going dutch treat with your friends now would keep worthwhile friendships intact.

Sagittarius: (November 22 to December 21) Do everything possible to get your attachment to go on a trip with you. Now would be a good time to join an organization with friends you like.

Capricorn: (December 22 to January 20) Get all possible business data that you require from experts. A time when you need to keep your temper under control when with your friends.

Aquarius: (January 21 to February 19) A very good day for you to invite and entertain charm in your home. You will have considerable activity with good friends.

Pisces: (February 20 to March 20) Accepting more responsibilities in business will bring you more income. Invite younger persons into your home for a pleasant time.

Today's child: If your child were born today he or she will be witty and have a good sense of humor that will appeal to those individuals who can appreciate his or her special qualities, while others around them may fail to understand or approve of them, and in some ways be truly confused by them.

Centre court area in Wimbledon to be eliminated

LONDON (AP) — A 68-year tradition at the world's oldest grand slam tennis tournament ends this summer when all standing room at Wimbledon's centre court is scrapped to meet new safety standards, officials announced Tuesday.

"It's very, very sad," Sue Youngman, spokeswoman for the All England Club, said Tuesday. "The centre court was built in 1922 and has had standing room ever since. The place won't quite be the same without it."

New government regulations require any covered stand at a British sports ground accommodating more than 500 people to hold a safety certificate.

The centre court at Wimbledon holds 14,502 fans, including 2,000 standing places. Youngman said local authorities refused to grant the championships a safety certificate unless it replaced standing areas on its main show court with seats.

"We will be building seats but there won't be anywhere near 2,000," Youngman told the Associated Press. "It will hit hard many people who have traditionally queued up to get into centre court."

But a spokesman for Merton Borough Council, which covers the Wimbledon district, said it

was the All England Club's own decision to make centre court an all-seater arena.

"They elected to remove the seating," said Robin Pryke, chief surveyor at the council's building control department. "All we asked was for them to reduce the number of standing places and make the standing area conform to the act."

"We didn't specify a number and one got the impression they were actually looking for more seats. Maybe it's cheaper for them than to make the necessary construction work to keep it a standing area."

In a statement, the All England Club said Wimbledon's centre court will now become an advance ticket only arena. Only "with great regret" would existing standing room be replaced with seating before this year's event starting June 25.

"The committee (of management) is extremely disappointed that the longstanding tradition of standing room areas on centre court must now come to an end," the statement said.

The new legislation, which falls under the fire and safety at places of sport act, was prompted by the 1985 Bradford fire disaster when 53 fans died after a wooden stand was engulfed in flames at an English soccer game.

The law was tightened following the Hillsborough Stadium tragedy in Sheffield in April 1989, when 95 English soccer spectators were crushed to death in an overcrowded stand.

Youngman said officials at the All England Club tried hard to persuade Merton Borough Council that tennis attracts a different type of crowd than soccer.

"If the club could have done anything to retain standing room,

it would have done," she told the AP. "But the council looked at every aspect of safety within the grounds and made certain conditions for the tournament going ahead."

She said the authority had drawn up "a huge list of requirements."

"Taking away standing room was one of these conditions. There are others which we will announce later," she said. "A lot of things will change. The club has to make a number of amendments in safety procedures."

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THE Daily Crossword by Marjorie Gordon

ACROSS
1 Fodder trough
2 Seating place
3 Garden post
14 — seaplane
15 Plan
16 Dugout
17 Pelican
18 Bar by law
20 Cut panes
21 Plug
22 Impassable
23 Harak
24 Arab port
26 Verified
30 Come by
31 Fall
32 Kind of pigeon
35 Arab member
37 Layer
38 Confidential
39 Sarcasm
40 Neolite
41 Help a thief
42 Stately
43 Examine
44 Sprayed out
45 Deceit artist
46 Grown berry
47 Kluge
48 Mistletoe
49 "The Prisoner"
50 ———
51 Dialect
52 Authority on
53 A. A. ———
54 Dislike
55 Opera. Robt.
56 Crime city
57 Chief
58 Past
59 DOWN
1 Kilo
2 A Montague
3 Drive
4 Kick out
5 Priority
6 Headscarf
7 Further
8 Stained old
9 TV programs

10 ———
11 ———
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Yesteryear's Puzzle Solution:
1. Plane, news.
2. Garden post.
3. Seating place.
4. Dugout.
5. Pelican.
6. Bar by law.
7. Cut panes.
8. Plug.
9. Impassable.
10. Harak.
11. Arab port.
12. Verified.
13. Come by.
14. Fall.
15. Kind of pigeon.
16. Arab member.
17. Layer.
18. Confidential.
19. Sarcasm.
20. Neolite.
21. Help a thief.
22. Stately.
23. Examine.
24. Sprayed out.
25. Deceit artist.
26. Grown berry.
27. Kluge.
28. Mistletoe.
29. "The Prisoner".
30. ———.
31. Dialect.
32. Authority on.
33. A. A. ———.
34. Dislike.
35. Opera. Robt.
36. Crime city.
37. Chief.
38. Past.
39. DOWN.
40. Kilo.
41. A Montague.
42. Drive.
43. Kick out.
44. Priority.
45. Headscarf.
46. Further.
47. Stained old.
48. TV programs.
49. Plane, news.
50. Garden post.
51. Seating place.
52. Dugout.
53. Pelican.
54. Bar by law.
55. Cut panes.
56. Plug.
57. Impassable.
58. Harak.
59. Arab port.
60. Verified.
61. Come by.
62. Fall.
63. Kind of pigeon.
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66. Confidential.
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78. ———.
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88. Kilo.
89. A Montague.
90. Drive.
91. Kick out.
92. Priority.
93. Headscarf.
94. Further.
95. Stained old.
96. TV programs.
97. Plane, news.
98. Garden post.
99. Seating place.
100. Dugout.

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